

The magician's tablecloth trick

Read it -- Try it safely -- Explore it further

The magician's table-cloth trick without risking your best china dinner set

Version 1



You need

a tall glass, a coaster, a small apple,
a cardboard tube (from toilet roll)

Set up as shown

Hold the glass using one hand.

Use your other hand to slap the coaster sideways.

If the apple ends up in the glass, you win.

Concepts: The force due to gravity pulls the apple straight downwards.
The slap sideways if quick enough, gets the obstructions out of the way.

Version 2



You need

a wine glass, a credit card, a coin

Set up as shown.

Use one hand to hold the glass steady

Use your other hand to flick the card away.

If the coin ends up in the glass, you win.

Extension activity. Do not pull the tablecloth from under your best china.
Instead, explore concepts of gravity, inertia and friction.