

Marvelous Meaningful Monthly Math

Sponsored by

Central Area Tech Prep, Mitchell Technical Institute, and Bridges

Human Services December

Career – Hypnotist

Math Activity

You are a hypnotist. You have been taking on more and more group hypnotherapy sessions. A mid-sized department from a large company has recently contacted you. Many employees are worried that they will lose their jobs.

The supervisor wants to discuss a possible group hypnotherapy session with you to raise morale. But this kind of session is not cheap. The supervisor first wants to know how effective a session will be. Will it work? You explain the procedure and give her some facts:

- There are 12 standard tests in the SHSS (Stanford Hypnotic Susceptibility Scale). These determine how well an individual conforms to hypnosis. Generally, 5 percent are unaffected. About 10 percent are affected to extreme depths.
- The ability to be hypnotized is not affected by gender or intelligence.

"Math is of course handy in our field," says hypnotherapist Wayne Perkins. "It comes in very handy in all things from bills and costs to analysis of results data -- stuff that makes for excellent study."

The male vs. female question is not an issue. All 25 employees have similar intelligence levels and social skills. The formula will simply involve the ratio for 25 individuals.

How many employees will not benefit from the hypnotherapy at all? How many will be hypnotized to extreme depths?

Name _____ School _____ Teacher _____

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Solution

You need to figure out how many employees will benefit from hypnosis and how many will not.

5 percent are unaffected

$$25 \text{ employees} \times 0.05 = 1.25$$

10 percent will be deeply affected

$$25 \times 0.10 = 2.5$$

Therefore, one or two (1.25) of employees will be unaffected, while two or three (2.5) of them will hypnotize to extreme depths.

The supervisor decides that it is well worth her time and money to invest in your treatment to boost her employees' morale.