



## **HOW TO ACHIEVE PRECOGNITIVE SUCCESS:**

**"If you're so psychic, why aren't you rich?"**

**By Alan Vaughan, Ph. D.**

In the 25 years that I have been researching and practicing precognition-- predicting events that can not be logically foreseen--the question most often asked me is: "If you're so psychic, why aren't you rich?" Reporters typically think that, if you can foresee the future, then obviously you will want to make money by gambling on sports events or speculating on stocks and commodities.

Many people think that psychic ability should work like electricity; you just flick on the mental switch, and the psychic light comes on. But there are restricting psychological factors--some quite subtle--that determine precognitive success.

If you are serious about using precognition to enhance your own real-life success, here are some important tips gleaned from my own research (see bibliography) and research by others. I conclude with step-by-step instructions for achieving real-life precognitive success.

Logical (left-brained) knowledge of current situations hinders accurate precognition of their outcome. Douglas Dean's experiments with psychic Carol Liaros, in which she predicted the outcome of yes/no situations in the lives of students, showed that she was 80% accurate as compared with 59% accuracy of the students who predicted the outcome of events in their own lives.

A 1979 survey of predictions made over 50 years by experts in areas such as financial markets, economics, politics, psychology, science and medicine, showed that logical expertise gave no significant advantage. The trend continues. Financial World's study of stock-market predictions made by the 20 top financial analysts in 1980 showed that they "bombed out" on two-thirds of their stock picks. A 1993 study by the Wall Street Journal of the top analysts' stock predictions for six months showed that a more successful outcome was given by throwing darts.

Norman Fosbach's financial newsletter (quoted in the Los Angeles Times, June 1, 1992) tracked predictions made by stock-market experts on Louis Rukeyser's "Wall Street Week" TV show and found that odds of making money on their stock tips were "no better than a coin flip." Another study showed that stocks recommended by guests in 1983-1984 underperformed the market by 4%.

A comparison of predictive skill about economics was made by researcher David Loye with three groups of college students: grad students in social science at UC, Berkeley; grad students attending a futures forecasting seminar at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey; and students at UCLA who were studying psychic phenomena. The UCLA students of psychic phenomena outperformed the other groups.

Our culture overtrains people to think logically, with the result that left-brained logical thinking overpowers weaker signals from the intuitive right brain. So, paradoxically, the less you know about a situation, the better you may be able to predict its outcome.

A win-win situation promotes psychic success. Motives and attitudes of all the people involved in psychic experiments can affect the outcome. To be successful, real-life experiments should benefit both the participants and the wider public. As a counterexample, gambling or

commodities speculation merely moves money from one pocket to another, at the expense of others (a win/lose situation).

An example of the difference between a theoretical (win/win) experiment and a gambling experiment (win/lose) was given by Karl Enkelaar, head of Dutch TV programming, who wrote a book about Gerard Croiset in the 1950s. A casino owner approached Croiset about a theoretical test of precognition at a race track in France. The casino owner promised he would not bet. At the track Enkelaar observed as Croiset took a racing form and checked off his predictions for winners of seven races. All seven horses came in—against astronomical odds. The casino owner begged Croiset to stay another day to repeat the experiment, and vowed he would not bet. The next day Croiset again marked his seven choices for winners. The first one was wrong, as was the second. When his choice for the third race also lost, Croiset said to the casino owner: "You bet, didn't you?" The casino owner confessed, "Yes. I just couldn't resist." Croiset's exceptional precognitive ability would not work in the win/lose situation.

Beliefs, both conscious and subconscious, can determine psychic success or failure. Beliefs, especially strong convictions based on experience, that an experiment will work tend to be fulfilled. However, when there is a conflicting subconscious belief, the subconscious will win out. A famous example of this subconscious conflict is provided by the spiritual healer and psychic Edgar Cayce, who tried to save his organization from bankruptcy during the Depression by psychically locating oil. The venture was completely unsuccessful. Cayce's strong inner conviction that his gifts should be used only for spiritual purposes was stronger than his conscious goal to find desperately needed money.

People who are oriented toward making money in business can be successful in using their own intuitive abilities to foresee money-making opportunities. In their book Executive ESP, Douglas Dean and John Mihalasky showed that 80% of a group of company presidents who doubled their profits in five years scored above chance on precognition tests.

A good example of business intuition: The supersuccess of the MacDonal'd's food chain was not foreseen by accountants, who advised Ray Kroc against the purchase, but Kroc's "funny-bone" told him to go against their advice. Kroc's intuition manifested as throwing things out the window, cursing colorfully, and calling his lawyer to say, "Give them anything they want."

Closed-mind skepticism can either deflect psychic functioning or block it altogether. An example of a skeptical experimenter causing a displacement with a talented subject was Robert Van de Castle's experience with a skeptical dream researcher who was trying to replicate the Maimonides dream-telepathy studies. Van de Castle dreamed in great detail about a picture (a naked chicken wearing a vest) not seen by the telepathic sender. The experimenter's skepticism apparently induced Van de Castle to switch to a precognitive mode and dream about an interesting picture he would see in the future as part of the target pool. In this way, the experimenter could confirm his skeptical belief that telepathy was impossible and Van de Castle could confirm his belief that he could dream psychically.

Other possible causes for displacement effects include subjects feeling they are being taken advantage of or are being deceived, situations in which they or the experimenters are overanxious, or when there is great pressure to perform, such as for making money through psychic experiments.

Researchers and all others involved in psychic experiments, should have "psi-conductive" personalities—such as positive, warm, open, enthusiastic, flexible. The opposite type of personality—cold, rigid, egoistic—inhibits psychic success.

The future is flexible, and therefore precognition cannot be as accurate as same-time psychic perception. If precognition could be shown to be nearly 100% accurate over thousands of trials, it would prove that the future is absolutely predetermined; and therefore, one's present predictions would also be predetermined and so would everything else in the universe. Fortunately, there is no evidence that remotely suggests that the future can be absolutely foreseen.

In a closed laboratory system that does not greatly affect anyone's life, higher accuracy in precognition can be obtained than in the real world. In an informal experiment at SRI International in Menlo Park, California, a physicist energetically bounced a coin against a wall, while another scientist, who had earlier demonstrated exceptional psychic skills, predicted the outcome for 33 tosses. The predictions of head or tails were, without exception, correct for all 33 coin tosses. The odds against chance were 8.6 billion to 1. The psychic scientist attributed half of his successes to his psychic skills and half to luck.

The record for continuous precognitive success is held by a former engineering student at University of California, Santa Barbara, who, over 42 months, made 2,807 guesses at which of two elevators in the engineering building would arrive first. He was right 67% of the time, with his greatest accuracy (77%) coming when he made his predictions by telephone 16 hours in advance. Odds against chance for his overall success are  $10^{66}$  to 1. I theorize that the student was influencing the elevators by his predictions, and that the greater number of electronic events available for influencing, such as during the 16-hour periods, the greater his success.

The majority-vote or group consensus technique can enhance precognitive success in real-life situations. Experiments in 1970 by Robert Brier and Walter Tyminsky in using majority-vote group predictions for application at the casino roulette table yielded modest winnings. Other researchers, such as Douglas Dean, have repeated this experiment successfully, with small wagers giving modest winnings.

In 1967 I elicited predictions from many psychics in England about major events in my future. The future events about which there was a consensus did in fact happen a few years later—such as writing books on psychic research and moving to California to work for a psychic magazine.

In 1975 I analyzed the predictions of 14 psychics about President Ford. By a considerable consensus (13 to 1), the psychics voted that President Ford would not be re-elected in 1976.

At my suggestion, the San Francisco Chronicle polled six psychics for yes/no answers to five burning issues of 1977—such as: Will Patty Hearst be in jail? Who will be the Superbowl winner, Oakland or Minnesota? The consensus was 100% correct for all five questions though the best that any individual psychic did was 80%. A question that called for a number prediction—In what place will the San Francisco Giants finish?—gave a correct consensus average of fourth place, though none of the six psychics individually gave that answer.

In the 1980s I did psychic work for a Los Angeles consultant service, Psychic Enterprises. Headed by businessman Glenn Nickell, Psychic Enterprises advised business clients on the basis of consensus predictions from a group of psychics. When a fast-food chain asked about franchising a ribs restaurant, the psychic response was that chicken would sell better. So the food chain

purchased a chicken franchise (El Pollo Loco), which became a great success. Although the clients of Psychic Enterprises said they were pleased with the high quality of information provided them, they wanted confidentiality and were embarrassed to tell other businesses about it. Without that important word of mouth, Psychic Enterprises could not survive.

A similar group, Center for Applied Intuition (CAI), organized by William Kautz in the Bay Area, used intuitive consensus to answer questions for scientific and business clients—many in Japan. CAI ran into the same problem as Psychic Enterprises.

The Mobius Society in Los Angeles, headed by Stephan Schwartz, successfully used intuitive consensus techniques for archaeological projects, many of which I have worked on. The technique was adapted to predict commodity markets through associative precognitive remote viewing—that is, the intuitives would describe which slide would be projected if the market went up or down. If a consensus was reached, an investment would be made. From a scientific viewpoint, the experiment achieved significant success; from a business point of view, the venture lost money, perhaps because the method did not give information on how high or low the market would go.

Consensus associative remote viewing was used successfully by seven members of a school board to raise money for their school. Their consensus predictions of a commodity were right 21 times out of 30 attempts—a 70% accuracy rate. Investing \$1-2,000 each time, they netted a profit of \$25,000. A later attempt to make money for themselves was not successful.

A rate of 76% precognitive consensus accuracy was obtained in a lab by James Carpenter. Students' yes/no predictions were sampled in preliminary tests; those who were systematically wrong had their predictions reversed for the formal tests. Out of 105 consensus predictions, 80 proved correct.

High emotional impact and meaningfulness of future feedback favor precognitive success. Some of the most successful precognitive studies have used emotionally interesting future experiences as targets in free-response experiments. Examples include the Maimonides precognitive dream series with Malcolm Bessent, in which multi-sensory experiences were described a day in advance.

Gerard Croiset's chair experiments, in which he described in detail a person randomly chosen from an audience at a hall two or more days in advance, were highly successful. In an experiment I witnessed in 1968, Croiset described in detail two days in advance both the person chosen by chance and another person who jumped up on the stage to translate. Croiset said his best results came when filming of his predictions and the fulfillment added to the excitement, such as a filmed transatlantic test he did for Jule Eisenbud in 1973, and conversely, poor results were obtained when the chair experiment was routine.

Precognitive remote viewing experiments work best when the subject's emotions are engaged by actually visiting the described site rather than merely being shown a slide or photo of the site. Meaningful feedback can also be obtained when a target person visits an unusual site. Pioneered in 1976 at SRI International by Harold Puthoff and and Russell Targ, precognitive remote viewing has become a reliable means of demonstrating psychic ability, such as the experiments at Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Group.

In a 1993 study I obtained significant results with a "Success Test," which provided meaningful feedback of success potential to self-selected subjects who made their forced-choice predictions a week in advance. The group that outscored all others subscribe to Fate, which

regularly features articles on psychic phenomena and entered the study by reading an article on precognition. Their interest in the topic may have made the feedback more meaningful to them.

When no feedback at all is given subjects, results are consistently at chance.

If, as I theorize, precognitive information is accessed the same way as memory of the past, with trivial events entered into short-term memory, and highly emotional peak events entered into long-term memory, we would expect that effective precognitive targets must provide sufficient emotional feedback for them to stand out over other events in the intervening time period before fulfillment. That is, the farther into the future one wants to see, the more emotional or meaningful the target should be.

Trivial targets in forced-choice tests show the same decline over time as does short-term memory. Traditional forced-choice tests with small numbers of known potential targets, such as ESP cards, random-event generators that give feedback in the form of a red or green light, etc., promote guessing (a left-brain function), which produces a large amount of noise and gives mediocre results.

Numbers and names make extremely poor psychic targets. The general public's concept of "mind reading" is drawn from mentalists, who use trickery to simulate psychic perception of numbers and names. In reality, names and numbers are stored in the left brain and are only rarely accessible to mainly right-brain psychic perception. Even a highly talented psychic such as Croiset could never give the number that would be drawn by chance from an audience but would need to describe personal characteristics of the person chosen.

Numbers can be predicted when they are converted to pictures. I have been successful in using this strategy for economic forecasting. In 1979, when inflation was at 12%, I visualized a graph indicating the decline of the inflation rate to the correct figure of 8% by mid-1982. Several professional economists all incorrectly predicted the inflation rate would accelerate to double-digit levels.

A reliable technique for converting numbers into right-brain targets is called associative remote viewing. The most famous experiment using this technique was done by Russell Targ and Keith Harary to forecast silver futures correctly in nine initial attempts, which netted their investor \$120,000 profit. When the investor pressed them to do the experiments more often at half their commission, the second series were all incorrect, and a third series by another viewer displaced onto wrong targets. Targ theorized that when greed enters the picture, psychic ability is adversely affected. The technique, however, was sophisticated: the viewer would visualize which of four (unknown) objects would be given him the next week, with each object representing whether the market would go up a little, go up a lot, go down a little, or go down a lot.

The best precognitive results usually come from psychics who have established good track records. A highly successful lab study is the precognitive dream experiments done by Malcolm Bessent, a British psychic, who scored 14 hits out of 16 attempts (87.5% accuracy) to dream about future target experiences.

People can be trained in precognitive skills with Psychic Reward software. A 1992 study that I did with Jack Houck, updated, shows that 75% of Psychic Reward trainees improved their ability to predict electronic targets, with a significant number showing significant improvement. The software's innovation is giving ultrasensitive ("the closer you hit, the higher you score"), positive

feedback 96% of the time. I theorize that the training opens up latent right-brain channels for intuitive knowing and strengthens the ability to sense subtle inner signals.

Psychics need to make contact with the specific target in real-life situations--such as handling information about the target, or being given the name and location of a person or company. Contact can come through the future experience of the psychic or through the future experience of a client or experimenter.

Doing a single free-response trial at a time yields greater accuracy than doing many trials. Doing only one trial per day has become standard procedure for remote-viewing experiments.

Low geomagnetic fields favor precognitive success. An analysis by physicist James Spottiswoode of the dates of 61 precognitive dreams which I recorded over a 20-year period showed a significant (odds of 1,000 to 1) tendency for the dreams to come during days of low geomagnetic activity as compared with the days before and after. This result is consistent with several other studies that show significant correlations between days of low geomagnetic fields and spontaneous psychic experience. If lessened geomagnetic interference with the brain favors precognitive success, subjects may show enhanced ability when shielded from the earth's magnetic field.

Intuition-favorable days predicted by astrology favor precognitive success. An analysis by psychologist Marcia Emery of my precognitive dreams showed that 70% of them came on days when my horoscope said I should be intuitive, whereas only 50% would be expected by chance. This 20% above-chance result is one of the strongest effects ever found for an astrological hypothesis--with odds of 2,000 to 1.

### **Real-life Precognition Experiments**

Instructions for doing your own real-life precognition experiments:

1. A win/win situation is preferred, such as choosing which of many investment opportunities would yield both a good profit and good benefit for the public or which of many new product concepts could be successfully developed and marketed? It is important that the concept be examined before investment money is put into it. The question should be: If we develop an Edsel car, what will be its acceptance? Not: How do we get the public to buy warehouses full of Edsels?
2. An odd number of psychics (to avoid ties) should separately answer yes/no questions about the ventures.
3. An objective "psi-conducive" experimenter who has experience in dealing with psychics should put the questions to them.
4. The psychic responses should be examined for consensus.
5. The ventures on which there is positive consensus should then be re-examined. Psychics should be asked to give details about the future of the ventures, one per session, and the data should again be examined for consensus.
6. The psychics should receive feedback about investment decisions and the eventual outcomes--since that may be their source of information. The more dramatically the feedback is presented, the more likely the psychic will be able to "hit."
7. Psychics should be shielded from the earth's magnetic field.
8. Astrological horoscopes should be consulted for the psychics so that the predictions can be made on intuition-favorable days.

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