

Spinning a basketball on the head or finger

To spin a basketball on your finger, follow these instructions and you will soon be amazing your friends!

1. First, toss up the ball, twisting your hands to make it spin, then catch it. Try to twist the ball faster each time.
2. Next, make sure the ball is spinning straight. If it is spinning at an angle, you can't balance it on your finger.
3. Practise spinning the ball fast and straight, then try catching it on your fingertip. This works best with your finger slightly bent. If your finger is totally straight, the ball will just bounce off.



If you practise, practise, practise, you might get as good as Mehmet Kecec from Germany. He spun a basketball on his head for 18.11 seconds and broke the Guinness World Record for the longest duration spinning a basketball on the head. He had to spin the basketball on his finger first before transferring it to his head. Mehmet broke the record at the Soccer Meets Schanze charity event in Hamburg, Germany, on 28 May 2011.



Tips

- Balance the ball on your fingernail. It has less friction than your fingertip. Less friction means a faster spin.
- Toss the ball high enough so that you can see the middle of the bottom of the ball. This helps you judge where the right spot is to put your finger.
- Fan (lightly brush) the ball with the fingertips of your other hand. This will make it spin faster.



ON YOUR MARKS

- How do you make the basketball spin when you start?
- What happens if you balance the ball on your fingernail?
- Why does the author write the word 'practise' three times?



GET SET

- What happens if the ball is spinning at an angle?
- What effect does friction have?
- Where is the 'right spot' for spinning a basketball?



GO FOR GOLD!

- Why should your finger be bent when you catch the basketball?
- Why does the author use the word 'might' in the final paragraph?
- Why do you think Mehmet Kecec spun the ball on his finger first?



BEYOND THE RECORD

Imagine Mehmet Kecec is coming to visit your school. What five questions would you like to ask him? If you could ask only one question, what would it be?