

Adam Spencer's Big Book of Numbers

Adam Spencer

An hilarious, enlightening romp through the world of numbers with one of Australia's best-loved broadcasters.

Why do people get freaked out by Friday the 13th?* Where does a 'dozen' come from? Who was Erno Rubik? And how do you become a master at Sudoku?

In 100 bite-sized chapters, mathematician, broadcaster and comedian Adam Spencer unlocks the secrets of the world of numbers.

If you've ever wondered about the 'fourth dimension', why spider monkeys have so many bones in their hands, which numbers are truly *narcissistic*, or how on earth you play 'Buckyball', *Adam Spencer's Big Book of Numbers* will set you straight.

Publicity and Marketing

- Regular guest on Channel 7's 'The Morning Show' (weekly); and 'Weekend Sunrise'
- Proven radio talent – cult following on 702 ABC and triple J; regular guest on Ben Fordham's show on 2GB
- Monthly maths & science column in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*
- Ideal Xmas gift for adults and kids 12+
- His first book in over a decade – his previous sold 25,000+ copies (Penguin, 2000)

About the Author



In 1996 while doing a Maths PhD at Sydney Uni, Adam Spencer won the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Raw Comedy Championship; he went on to host the legendary triple j breakfast show with Wil Anderson before graduating to 702 ABC Sydney where he secured record ratings for the station for eight years. TV credits include 'The Glasshouse', 'Good News Week'

and 'Sleek Geeks'. His 2013 TED talk at Long Beach California on Prime Numbers is a geek comedy classic and has had over 1.5m views. Adam lives in Sydney with his family.

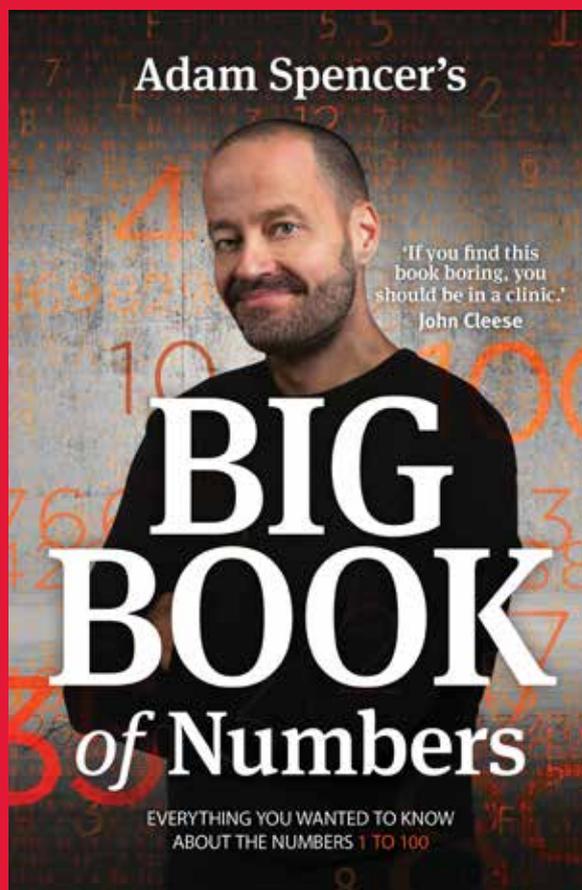
* **Answers:** 1) The Vikings and the Knights Templar are mostly to blame for our fear of Friday the 13th. At least in English-speaking countries. In Spanish-speaking countries Tuesday the 13th is considered unlucky!

2) The word 'dozen' comes from the Latin word *duodecim*, *duo* meaning two and *decim* ten. Twelve played an important part in many counting systems and we still see traces of that today – 12 hours from noon till midnight, 12 pence in the old shilling in the UK etc. Twelve has the benefit of dividing into half, thirds or quarters and giving a whole number answer, as opposed to ten.

3) Erno Rubik is a Hungarian inventor, architect and professor of architecture best known for his invention of mechanical puzzles including the Rubik's Cube.

4) Practise. In 2005 Bertram Felgenhauer and Frazer Jarvis showed that there are $9! \times 722 \times 27 \times 27,704,267,971 = 6,670,903,752,021,072,936,960$ different valid sudoku grids!

To find out about 'fourth dimensions' etc, you'll have to read the book!



Title	Adam Spencer's Big Book of Numbers
Author	Adam Spencer
Formats	Two-colour C format trade paperback (232 x 152 mm)
Length	432 pages
Weight	240 grams (approx)
Imprint	Xoum Publishing
Category	Science and trivia
Price	\$29.99 (print) \$14.99 (digital)
ISBN	9781921134326 (print) 9781921134333 (digital)
Contact	Rod Morrison Email: rmorrison@xoum.com.au Phone: 61 2 8399 1850

Available: November 2014