Marbles in a Mug

Now that you've learned how to catch a stack of coins, how about catching marbles in a mug? As you may discover, this trick can get frustrating, especially if you don't uncover the secret of the technique. But here's a hint: this secret has to do with—you guessed it—the i word. Good luck!

Materials
Several marbles       A mug

To Do
Hold the mug's handle with your pinkie, ring, and middle fingers. This leaves your index finger and thumb free. Using only these two fingers, pick up a marble. With an upward arm motion, toss the marble into the air (but keep holding the mug). Quickly position the mug beneath the falling marble. Great catch!

Now it gets tougher. While grasping the mug with the marble still inside, pick up a second marble with your index finger and thumb. Now try throwing this second marble so it joins the first in the mug.

Note: If you were lucky enough to get the second marble in using this same technique, try tossing and catching a third one.

The first marble is the easy one to catch. As it rises, you position the mug directly beneath it. Gravity does the rest.

The next marble is more difficult to snare while keeping the first one within the mug. If you try the same technique, the captured marble keeps jumping out! The best way to capture the second marble is by using a “drop-and-slide” technique. Don't toss the second marble upward. Instead, release your grip on this marble. As it falls, quickly position the mug in its downward path. As you'll discover, the mug only needs to drop about an inch (2.5 cm) for the marble to clear the rim.