MISSING THE POINT
BET YOU CAN'T MAKE TWO PENCIL POINTS MEET ON ONE TRY!

THE SETUP: Take a sharp pencil in each hand. Hold your hands about two feet apart and with the pencil points facing each other. Close one eye. Keep it closed! Now try to get the points to meet.

THE FIX: This trick proves that you can't always believe your eyes. You can't bring the points together because you lack binocular vision (vision from two separate vantage points), which allows you to calculate the distance of an object. When one eye is covered, the familiar depth cues are missing. Depth perception is most difficult on objects as close together as the pencils. And the margin for error with targets as small as the pencil points is enormous. Practice will make you perfect in this stunt. The body learns other ways to judge depth when given practice. See if you can get the pencil points to meet after a few more tries. Bet you can!