There are situations in everyday life in which people try to outguess one another. Visitors to the county fair can be asked to guess the number of jellybeans in a jar. In a sealed-bid auction, it might be desirable to bid closest to the value of an object without guessing too high. Contestants on the American television program “The Price Is Right” try to make better guesses on the price of household goods than their opponents. Assuming rational and intelligent guessers, what does the mathematics say should a person do?

We will look at the following game: players guess the value of a random real number selected using some probability density function known to all. The winner may be a player whose guess is closest in magnitude to the target or a winner can be a player coming closest without guessing higher than the target. We will talk about optimal strategies and exhibit some of them for small numbers of players. (Received September 12, 2012)