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The Hunt for the Number Thieves

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Sample Translation by Jenny Moi Vindegg

1.

“There are houses everywhere,  
But it’s easy getting there.  
On each house there is a number.

But wait a sec,  
have I gone dumber?”

Where should the postman deliver the letter?

(The letter says: “To Per in house no. 1”)

2.

In house number two  
There’s a line to the loo.

Party hats! Balloons shaped like fish!  
An enormous birthday cake on a dish!

It’s all wonderful, but then …  
How old has Leo turned, again?

(The crown says: X years old)

When everyone’s eaten a great amount  
of cake, Anita starts to count  
while the others hide. Yes, you too, Eddy!

But what’s this, is she done already?

3.  
“Send in number four!”  
But who’s that, is it Percy?  
Someone’s snatched the number  
From the back of his jersey!

“Never mind now,  
it’s just a number, after all!  
We’ll make do without it.  
Now, let’s play ball!”

But it’s hard to tell who’s won fair and square  
When all the numbers disappear.

(The sign says 3 to the home team, X to the away team)

4.  
Kim wants to pay,  
But there is no way!

The register slumbers,  
it lacks many numbers.

“I can’t sell you this ice cream  
if I don’t know the price, Kim.”

Adil has jumped from one meter before,  
but now he feels shaken to his core.

Isn’t this dive tower terribly tall?  
Should he still dare to jump? Or is he too small?

5.  
The conductor looks puzzled at the display,  
Someone has taken more numbers away.

The train was to leave twelve o’clock from track one,  
but now it’s already half past  
and track one is gone.

(On signs: “spor” means “track”).

6.

Enough is enough!  
It really encumbers  
us all that someone is stealing the numbers.

Why do they take them? And on what ground?  
How many will they steal before they are found?

(The sign says: firewood for sale)

Behind a bush they all hear a cackle.  
Was that a thief? Are there more to tackle?

(The sign says: Bus no. – now – bus no. – XX o’clock)

7.

“Number thieves, you say?  
Not much of a crook.  
Don’t make me laugh!  
But I suppose I’ll have a look.”

The police must be very careful going forward.  
Something important is missing from the dashboard.

Someone has tampered with that traffic sign.  
Who is the number rascal behind?

(The signs says: Here. There. That way.)

8.

Oh no, oh no!  
There’s smoke everywhere!  
All the baked goods are burnt.  
What happened here?

The bakers look for answers, but don’t know where to begin.  
What do you think?  
Have someone broken in?

9.

The bank account is full  
And makes life easy for an heir.

But what’s this? One at a time,   
the zeros disappear!

From the window, slightly open, comes an icy wind  
is there a hacker in the house, and is that how they got in?

(The screen says: “Account. Your money.”)

10.

“Help!”  
The altimeter has broken down.  
How will they get the plane safely on the ground?

A note has slipped. Who carries word?  
What’s that in his sack? Is it a jailbird?

*On the note:*“Dear thieves of different  
sorts and schemes,

Steal numbers, all,  
and join our ball!

Love,  
The thieving tally teams”

11.  
At the docks, in spite of his skill,  
Bill’s in trouble. The boat’s overfilled!  
But no matter the load, the weight just says “nil”.

A ship heads out in a mighty dash.  
Someone with a map is making a splash  
as he leaves. Can you see the pirate’s splendid mustache?

Let’s follow him!   
Where might he call?

12.

“At the Number Ball!”

The thieves are all dressed up and enjoying the view  
Soon they’ll be eating and drinking, too.  
“To the tax haven I welcome you!”

13.

The Chief Thief taps his glass after dinner.  
“Let us name a worthy winner!”

Everyone shows off the numbers they’ve found.   
Can you see who’s won the first round?

14.

Alarm! Alarm!  
The police are here!

And none of them  
are pleased, I fear.

15.

The numbers are quickly put back in place!  
How lucky that the thieves tidied up after themselves.

(The sign says: Text bus at 1000 o’clock.)