

# MAJOR SYSTEM

A story for chaining number-words from 0 (and 00) to 100

A big zero turns out to be the fence surrounding a **zoo** (0), with lots of animal heads peering out. The perimeter turns out to be the collar of a man's shirt, and a **necktie** (1) wraps itself around it. Indeed, we now see, poking out of the loop of the tie, the head of an old man with a beard, **Noah** (2)! He climbs out of the shirt and fades into the figure of a 1950s housewife, **ma** (3). She starts munching on a **rye** (4) bread sandwich, which is grabbed from her by a policeman, representing the **law** (5). Our view of him pans down to his feet, where we see his **shoe** (6). The sole opens up into a mouth, and it grows horns: it has turned into a **cow** (7)! The cow starts eating some **ivy** (8), out of which a **bee** (9) flies, buzzing loudly. The bee finds and stings someone's **toes** (10).

*[ALTERNATIVE BEGINNING, USING TWO-DIGIT NUMBERS:] Some **sauce** (00) spills onto an elegant **suit** (01). Out of the neck of the suit pops the **sun** (02) instead of a head. On the sun, a **seam** (03) splits open, which shows a disgusting runny **sore** (04). Out of the sore emerges the head of a **seal** (05), which then starts to eat some **sushi** (06). The sushi is in a **sock** (07), which in turn is sticking out of the open door of a **safe** (08). The safe starts floating in a sea of **soap** (09) bubbles, which start to bathe someone between their **toes** (10).*

The camera pans up, and we see that the toes belong to a young child, a **tot** (11), who is wearing a hat made out of **tin** (12) foil. The tot bends over, and his hat falls into a **tomb** (13), which immediately spews out a **tire** (14). Since the tire is dirty, someone wipes it with a **towel** (15), and to clean the towel they drop it into a **dish** (16) of water. Someone attaches the dish to the wall with a **tack** (17), and a **dove** (18) flies over to peck at the tack. To capture the dove, someone slaps a plastic **tub** (19) over it. But after a moment the outline of a human **nose** (20) is seen stretching the plastic from within.

The nose breaks through, and out of its nostrils uncoils a **net** (21), which wraps itself around a **nun** (22). She pulls off her plastic **name** (23) tag and throws it like a Frisbee at the emperor **Nero** (24), who is playing a **nail** (25) like a violin. His vigorous bowing saws a **notch** (26) into the nail, and it starts bending at the notch, wrapping itself around someone's **neck** (27). This squeezes a **knife** (28) out of their mouth, which flies over and cuts the **knob** (29) off a door. In the hole left by the knob, there is

a cute little **mouse** (30) sitting on his haunches with his whiskers twitching.

The mouse jumps out of the hole onto a **mat** (31), which is sucked into a crater on the **moon** (32). Out of the crater rises a **mummy** (33), but a lawn **mower** (34) comes rolling up and reduces it to shreds. A **mule** (35) appears, offended by the mower's actions, and kicks it far away. The mule relaxes and slowly poops a lighted **match** (36) out of its butt. The match starts heating up a **mug** (37) of coffee, which gives off steam that obscures our view of a **movie** (38) screen. A cleaning woman appears and starts to **mop** (39) the screen, but the mop transforms itself into a **rose** (40) in her hands.

From amongst the rose's petals appears the muzzle of a nasty **rat** (41), which climbs out and lies on its back, wriggling with pleasure in the **rain** (42) which has just started to fall. The rain hydrates the animal and transforms it into a **ram** (43), which climbs onto its feet and starts charging at something. Alongside the ram there appears a **rower** (44) in his boat, rowing furiously and overtaking the ram. We look down and see that the rower is going so fast because his boat is mounted on a **rail** (45) like a train. Looking ahead, we see that the rail is in reality the leg of a gigantic **roach** (46), which upon seeing us scuttles under a **rock** (47). Our camera pans back, and we see that the rock is on the **roof** (48) of an apartment building. Over the edge hangs a **rope** (49), which we climb down. But it is too short to reach the ground, so we let go, fortunately landing in a pile of soft **lace** (50), which cushions our landing and covers us completely.

Through the lace we see a glow of **light** (51). We stick our head out and see the light is coming from a brilliant **lion** (52). A **lamb** (53) ambles over, unafraid, and lies down beside it, but a man drives up in a **lorry** (54), grabs the lamb and drives off with it. The lorry drives into a huge **lily** (55) and disappears. Hanging on to one of the petals of the lily we see a slimy **leech** (56). It lets go, and as it falls it turns into a freshly cut **log** (57), which drops into a river of **lava** (58). We look upstream and see that the lava is flowing from someone's lower **lip** (59), which fattens and gradually turns into an orange wheel of **cheese** (60).

Someone flattens the cheese with a rolling pin and turns it into a **sheet** (61), which starts twisting itself into a **chain** (62). The chain, hanging vertically, lowers itself into

a jar of **jam** (63), which we then spread on the seat of a **chair** (64). The camera pans back, and we see that the chair is in a **jail** (65), and we pan further back and see the jail is on a flatbed car of a **choo-choo** (66) train. We look at the choo-choo's rails and see they are made of sticks of **chalk** (67). One stick of chalk rises up as if held by an invisible hand and starts drawing on a Big **Chief** (68) tablet. The picture of the Indian chief jumps off the cover of the tablet and onto a **ship** (69). We pan back and see that the ship is floating in an open **briefcase** (70).

The case slams shut because, from behind it, a **cat** (71) jumps up. The cat starts riding a unicycle, which turns out to be a **coin** (72). Several dozen coins appear, parallel to the first, and they form the teeth of a **comb** (73). The comb turns into the front axle of a **car** (74). The car, being a convertible, has **coal** (75) dumped into it. The coal is in turn dumped into a big **cake** (76), which we see is sitting on a **cake** (77). On the side of the cake we see the mouth of a **cave** (78), out of which drives a **taxicab** (79). To squeeze more passengers in, the cab is held in a **vise** (80).

The vise tightens, and above the vise grip a **foot** (81) pops out. Someone picks up the foot, which turns out to be the handset of a **phone** (82). From the mouthpiece some **foam** (83) starts to bubble out, and then it catches **fire** (84). When the fire dies down, we see a glowing metal **file** (85), whose heat makes it float out of the embers. We now see that the file is really a **fish** (86), which is swimming through a thick **fog** (87). Out of the fog a man comes marching playing a **file** (88), which is attached to the man's waistcoat by a silver chain, a watch **fob** (89). We look again, and it turns out that the fob is really attached to a speeding **bus** (90).

Out of the bus's window flies a **bat** (91), which is carrying a dry **bone** (92). The bone is dropped onto a **bum** (93) sleeping on a sheet of cardboard in an alley. The bum wakes up and sees a **bear** (94) running towards him. Frightened, he climbs up a tower and rings a **bell** (95), which is heard on the nearby **beach** (96). A man sunning himself closes his **book** (97), and from between the pages emerges a **puff** (98) of smoke. The puff, surprisingly, goes into — rather than coming out of — the bowl of a **pipe** (99) which the man is smoking. The smoke from the pipe goes into his lungs and causes a **disease** (100). (I never promised you a happy ending!)