

NUMBERS, NUMBERS EVERYWHERE

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We are surrounded by numbers. Why are they so important, what do we use them for, and what things do they tell us?











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WHAT'S A NUMBER, AND WHAT'S A NUMERAL?

Numbers are nothing new for you. You knew them at an early age, long before you understood their meaning and learned to use them.

Numbers are symbols that determine quantity and order. They are practically everywhere – at home, in shops, in the street, at school ... They play a very important role in our everyday lives. How we would struggle to get by without them! So that we can see these numbers, we need symbols known as **numerals**. These work just as letters do – each letter of the alphabet has a symbol, which we can read and put together with other symbols to make words. It's the same with numerals. There are negative numbers as well as positive ones. We recognize a negative number by the minus sign in front of it. It represents anything less than 0. Imagine a house with some floors above ground and some floors below.



The many ways we use numbers include when we want to:

... say how many ...



... count ...

Numbers help us with many, many more things too. Let's take a look together at what they are.

01234556789 zero one two three four five six seven eight nine

0–9 are the numerical digits, and each has a different value. Although there are only 10 of them, we can use them to make any number we like. All we have to do is line them up.





... measure ...

Without the GPS coordinates, we would never have found the hunting lodge.



Numbers we FIND OUR WAY BY

They show us distance and direction. They tell us which route to take and where to find what we're looking for ... Thanks to numbers, we get on the right bus, leaf through a book to the right page, and find the building where our friend lives. Numbers help us find our way around so that we don't get lost.



CONTENT

PRINCESS



Ah! Number 7 my room. I can rest at last! The hairdresser's salon is on the 5th floor. Let's take the lift. Grandma lives at 25 Flower Street. 5 km 2 km



Every child in this city knows that tram no. 3 goes to the zoo. 200

I'd like to go down the famous Route 66. Would you?

ROUTE

111

111

11

I'd rather go to the castle. The pond is too far.

Numbers for **PLAYING** WITH

They move our piece forward on the board. They set our course. They let us enter the next round of a computer game or win a game of cards. These numbers are fun! What's more, things like hopscotch, dice games and numbered pictures teach us from a young age to tell numbers apart, name them and put them in the right order.

I need the 8 of diamonds. Does anyone have it?

> Hurray! I'm through to the next round!



111

Numbers 1 to 4

must appear once

in every row, across and down. Can you

crack it?

SUDOKU



I still don't understand why the blue one is more expensive. They look the same ...



500 crowns? Isn't that too much for an ordinary lunch?



Numbers that give a **MONETARY VALUE**

They tell us how much something costs. Now we know how much we have to pay before we can take home a thing we long for, so that we can have lunch in a restaurant, etc. Price tags in shops, banknotes and coins, special offers in catalogues with toys – the numbers on these are the ones we encounter most in everyday life.

> I wonder if the house will sell for so much money.

Hurray! I've finally saved up for the robot I've always wanted.

1234 5678 9012 3456



MENU

APPETIZER 69 SOUP 65 MAIN COURSE 230

DESSERT COFFEE LEMONADE

That'll be 960 crowns, please.

Will I pay with notes and coins, or should I use my card?



SPORT

Shall we buy skis? They're really cheap in summer.



A number-based cipher ... Quick, let's figure it out!

Numbers that open up SECRET PLACES

They take us to places that others can't reach. Often, they come in a combination allowing those who know it to open a secure apartment, a safe filled with valuables, a mobile telephone, etc. They also enable us to withdraw money from a cash dispenser. In short, they protect our property from thieves and prying eyes. And that's not all: if we know how, we can use them to decipher secret messages, one of which may lead us to hidden treasure!

Oh no, a combination lock ... I'm out of luck again!

8, 4, 5, 1, 3 ... CLICK ... And the way to the family treasure is open!

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No one but me

knows the passcode

for my phone.

Whoops! I got the code wrong again.



Enter my PIN, collect my money, and off I go to

the toy shop!

Hah! Thanks to the coordinates on this map, that treasure is mine!

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Take a look around – at home, on the street, at the railway station, wherever. How many numbers do you see? Quite a lot, right? It may not seem so at first glance, but there are numbers all around us. You can probably read them by now, maybe even count with them. But do you know what is behind these numbers? Do you know what they tell us? Numbers aren't only about maths and counting, how much there is, telling the time, and how much things cost. They do much, much more ... Come with us as we open a door to a somewhat different world of numbers ...

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