

CAUGHT

A beggar who had tried many ways of increasing his finances, at last pretended to be dumb. A gentleman who was passing by knew the beggar by sight. He went to him and suddenly asked: “How long have you been dumb?” The beggar quite forgot about his decision not to speak, and answered quickly: “Ever since I was a baby.”

beggar
increase

mendiant
augmenter

pretend
dumb

prétendre
idiot

since

depuis

**BULLET-PROOF**

A man once showed the Duke of Wellington a jacket which he had invented for soldiers, and which, he said, was bullet-proof. “Oh!”, said the Duke, “just put it on.” Then he rang the bell, and said to the servant: “Tell the captain of the guard to order one of his men to load his rifle and come here.” The inventor of the bullet-proof jacket disappeared and the Duke was never troubled with him again.

bullet-proof
invent
servant

pare-balle
inventer
serviteur

guard
load
rifle

garde
charger
fusil

disappear

disparaître

THEY RAN

Charles June, who had travelled across the Far West for many years once told his friends that he alone had made fifty wild Indians run. Of course, everybody asked how he had managed to do so. “Oh,” said Charles, “it was nothing very special. I ran, and they ran after me.”

Far West

l'Ouest sauvage

manage

parvenir

ANOTHER DOG

A dog once stole a piece of meat out of a butcher's shop and ran off with it to his kennel. On his way he had to cross a narrow wooden bridge over a stream. As he was crossing, he looked down and saw the reflection of himself in the water. He thought it was another dog with another piece of meat. He made up his mind to get hold of that as well. So he snapped at the reflection. In doing so he dropped his piece of meat into the water, and lost it.

meat
butcher
kennel

viande
boucher
niche

narrow
stream
make up one's mind

étroit
ruisseau
décider

get hold of
possession de
drop

prendre
laisser tomber

NEVER MIND

While Bernard Shaw was still a young music critic, he was invited as a guest to a family party. When he made his appearance, the daughter of the house was playing on the piano. “I have heard,” she said very sweetly, turning round to the visitor, “that you like music.” “I do,” replied Shaw, “but never mind. Carry on playing!”

critic
appearance
reply

critique
apparence
répondre, répliquer

never mind
carry on

peu importe!
continuer

