SECRET CODES

- Always start by counting the number of times each letter occurs in the message.

- E is the letter that appears most frequently, T is the next.

- After these letters comes A, O, N, I, R and S – all six of them usually occur at about equal frequency.

- If a word is only two letters long, one of the letters that will be used must be two – A, E, I, O, U or Y.

- More than half the words in the language end in E, D, S or T. More than half begin with T, A, O, S or W.

- A word with only one letter is sure to be A or I – unless it’s the initial of someone’s name.

- A letter ending in G is very likely to end ING.

- The most common three-letter words are THE and AND.

- Don’t forget to do your alphabet diagrams as soon as you’ve decoded enough letters to make it worthwhile. Here is an example:

  UIF   LFZ    UP    UIF    HBSBHF   EPPS    JT    JO    UIF    TIFE

- Count the frequency of all the letters in the code. Substitute the most frequent with the most frequent letter used in our alphabet – E.

```
   _ _ E     _ E _   _ _   _ _ _ _ _ E    _ _  _ _    _ E
   _ _ E _
```

So: Substitute the second most frequent with our second most frequent letter which is “T”

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   T _ E _ E _ T _ T _ E    _ _ _ _ _ E    _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ T _ E
   _ _ E _
```

Two letter words beginning with T will most often include one of the vowels, “A, E, I, O, U or Y”. Obviously it is going to be “O”, in most cases.
So far, the letters we have matched up look like this:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
E H O T

So the new alphabet that we’ll use looks like this:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

Y Z B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X

By decoding the message based on this alphabet you’ll see the message;

THE KEY TO THE GARAGE DOOR IS IN THE SHED

This type of code is known as transposition code.

Now it’s your turn to try. Solve the mystery code below based on the information and instruction given before. Remember to find the most familiar words first.

WKH HQHPB LV WKH WUDLQ
OGGV AQW WPFGT VJG EJGTTA VTGG
SVOK NV RZN YVRMT ZGGZXXPVW
The grid above begins to represent another form of transposition. The capital letters over the top of the lower case letters, represent those letters.

For instance: The dog becomes kui ujq

Design your own secret codes using the methods above.
DUAL RINGS CODE MAKING

You can also make a code by using two paper plates, one slightly larger than the other. Write the letters of the alphabet around the outer rim of both plates. Join them together in the center with paperclip so they can rotate freely and so that the letters are not aligned with the same ones. Just like transposition you can use one letter to represent another. There is a sample cut-out of the wheel on the next page.
SECRET CODES

How about we try quick and easy code. First, pick a phrase that has all of the letters of the alphabet. Like,

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER A LAZY DOG.

Now, give each letter a number.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 etc…

So, the phrase “this is some great fun” becomes

1, 8, 9, 19, 9, 19, 19, 15, 7, 18, 5, 1, 20, 6, 21, 14

Try decoding this phrase:

22,9,19,20 20,8,5 14,1,20,9,15,14,1,12

13,21,19,5,21,13 14,6 20,8,5 21,19,1,6

PUNCTUATION CODES These are easy. Just read or write so the comma is after the words you want to pass along are revealed.

“all the ammunition, we had is gone. No more is being sent. No reinforcements are arriving, in the future. This includes arriving by, car boat or plane, There will be no more tomorrow, or any other day.”

This looks like a horrible message, full of despair, but if read correctly reveals that:

“Ammunition arriving by plane tomorrow.”

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