

Cryptograms: Free Sampler

10 classic cryptograms
graded easy to hard, with full solutions

How to solve a cryptogram

Every puzzle in this book is a quotation in which each letter has been replaced by a different letter, used consistently throughout. If A becomes Q, it becomes Q everywhere. Your job is to work back to the original words. Spaces and word lengths are preserved, and those are your best clues.

- 1. Start with one-letter words**In English they are almost always A or I.
- 2. Attack the three-letter words**The most common by far is THE. If one three-letter pattern repeats, try it — that single guess often hands you the three most useful letters in the puzzle at once.
- 3. Look for doubled letters**Doubles at the end of a word are usually LL, SS, EE or OO.
- 4. Use word endings.**ING, ED, TION and LY are everywhere, and each one you spot confirms several letters at a stroke.
- 5. Count frequencies.**Across English the order runs roughly E T A O I N S H R D L U. The most repeated symbol in a long puzzle is very likely E.
- 6. Use pencil.** Guesses that collapse three words later are part of the process.

Puzzles marked EASY come with a few letters given. MEDIUM gives you one. HARD gives you nothing but the text. Every fifth puzzle is a rotation cipher, where the whole alphabet has been shifted by the same amount — crack one letter of those and you have cracked them all.

Solutions begin after the final puzzle. Good luck.

Puzzle 1

CRYPTOGRAM · EASY

V A V E D G Q O F Y Q N M W V N C G D W C G F J G
V A V E D J F V M V V M O G

- ZJFUCZOCM

Hint: F = N M = S V = E

Puzzle 2

CRYPTOGRAM · EASY

N I N T U M I J A R I W I W R I R G R U T W M Y K J
P A R B V Y I U A X A B V A Z N U U N U Z I M K N X A

- GRBLYT RYBAKNYT

Hint: G = M J = D W = H

Puzzle 3

CRYPTOGRAM · EASY

G J Q J A A P C S P A C D J X R C D J B R T
P G U J G C P R G

- LIOCR

Hint: B = R R = O T = F

Puzzle 4

CRYPTOGRAM · MEDIUM

V U C X L O S V U J L N A C U Q P C V X M C Q D J I
M C Q D J V I C O M

- MDQLHOJL W. DXXICPCOV

Hint: J = I

Puzzle 5

CAESAR SHIFT · MEDIUM

H I G X K T C D I I D Q T P H J R R T H H Q J I
 G P I W T G I D Q T D U K P A J T

- PAQTGI TXCHITXC

*Hint: this one is a simple letter rotation.***Puzzle 6**

CRYPTOGRAM · MEDIUM

P H H W Q F G S D T A H T K I T Q Z U F I T S V U X H
 Z G R Z X B R H T R V Z X T V F I Z I B K K D T K K
 N H X B R V Q F G

- ITKU IXBUJTR

*Hint: A = C***Puzzle 7**

CRYPTOGRAM · HARD

U T F T N Q T M Z C W C N Z C D H N Z A H V X C H U
 Q T B F L N C H U M Z C W C N Z C W C B L F T
 D H N Z

- WHXDZ MHXUT CACWLTF

Puzzle 8

CRYPTOGRAM · HARD

I G P T P Y B K U I G Y K R X P T E J K P K I
 P S H P X I H G J K R P

- GPTJHOYINB

Puzzle 9

CRYPTOGRAM · HARD

N C U O M A N B C K S G P U T B B X C M U L T H

F G Q C P G X C M E G O L K E H N G F G J H C Q

X C M P J G B Q

- GDTAHGHMJ

Puzzle 10

CAESAR SHIFT · HARD

J M I C B G Q A B Z C B P B Z C B P J M I C B G

B P I B Q A I T T G M S V W E W V M I Z B P

- RWPV SMIBA

Solutions

1. Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it — Confucius (substitution alphabet)
2. It is not death that a man should fear but never beginning to live — Marcus Aurelius (substitution alphabet)
3. Necessity is the mother of invention — Plato (substitution alphabet)
4. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself — Franklin D. Roosevelt (substitution alphabet)
5. Strive not to be a success but rather to be of value — Albert Einstein (shift of 15)
6. Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you — Walt Whitman (substitution alphabet)
7. Do not go where the path may lead go instead where there is no path — Ralph Waldo Emerson (substitution alphabet)
8. There is nothing permanent except change — Heraclitus (substitution alphabet)
9. How much longer will you wait before you demand the best of yourself — Epictetus (substitution alphabet)
10. Beauty is truth truth beauty that is all ye know on earth — John Keats (shift of 8)

About this book

These puzzles were generated with buttcrack, a free and open-source automatic cipher breaker — the same program that can solve them in under a second if you ever get truly stuck. Quotations are short fragments attributed to historical figures.

If you enjoyed these, the generator that produced this book is free: you can make endless further volumes of it yourself at github.com/ahardkore/Buttcrack---Cipher-Breaker