

Mark Twain Cryptograms — Set 1

7 puzzles · Standard print · answers on the last page

Every letter has been swapped for another letter. The same cipher letter always stands for the same letter, and no letter ever stands for itself. Write your answer in the blank under each letter. Answers are on the last page.

1. Clue: M = T

Medium · 47 letters

R Q C E T M P S S M V P M B T M V ,
 C E T J E X E M V Z K P M E
 B P L P L G P B Z X C M V R X U .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

2. Clue: H = E

Medium · 54 letters

W C R A L B H U I
 A H I U I V L P W H V C D H L A ,
 O L I V H A F C D D H L A , P C V
 L Y I H P W H C D D H L A .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

3. Clue: U = E

Hard · 55 letters

S P U F U I S N E V S T H P U U Q

V T O Q I U Y J O C Z I S T S Q V

S T H P U U Q I T D U F T X V

U Y I U O C .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

4. Clue: J = T

Hard · 56 letters

H R V H O Z S X P L A B J . J B L Z

V L R R A P H J L U O Z X F C

Y C X Y R C H K S H Z J X K L Z B

J B C P C Z J .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

5. Clue: Z = T

Hard · 58 letters

J I Z R L P H X B N Z G X U H G Z ,

B A W Z V I A R L P N B A

W U G Z L H Z Z V I F B G F P N V

B G R L P K O I B G I .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

6. Clue: U = E

Expert · 70 letters

Z L U C U R U D J P I W S C T

J P I D V U N W P C B L U V S T U

P W B L U G F E P D S B J , S B S V

B S G U B P Q F I V U F C T

D U W N U A B .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

7. Clue: Q = T

Hard · 80 letters

J C M O Q O X J C M O Q , C P T
P Z Q Q Z M W H A R P L Z R Q Z H
Q J W D O P T Z D M U C P U F C P ,
M R Q G Z C B W T
T Z D P X Q C O V X C X Q W Y C Q
C Q O F W .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

Solver's cheat sheet

Most common letters	E T A O I N S H R D L U
Most common 1-letter words	A I
Most common 2-letter words	OF TO IN IT IS BE AS AT SO WE HE BY OR ON DO IF ME MY UP AN GO NO US AM
Most common 3-letter words	THE AND FOR ARE BUT NOT YOU ALL ANY CAN HER WAS ONE OUR OUT DAY GET HAS HIM HIS HOW MAN NEW NOW OLD SEE TWO WAY WHO BOY DID ITS LET PUT SAY SHE TOO USE
Common double letters	LL EE SS OO TT FF RR NN PP CC
Common word endings	-ING -ION -ENT -TION -LY -ED -ER -EST
After an apostrophe	T (don't) S (it's) RE (we're) VE (I've) LL (we'll) D (I'd)

Answer key

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1. "If you tell the truth, you do not have to remember anything."

— Mark Twain, 1894, *Notebook*

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

2. "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear."

— Mark Twain, 1894, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*

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

3. "The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."

— Mark Twain, 1896, *Notebook*

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

4. "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

— Mark Twain, 1901, *Note to the Young People's Society*

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

5. "Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please."

— Mark Twain (*A remark recorded second-hand by an interviewer; the exact wording varies between accounts.*), 1899,
reported in an interview

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

6. "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

— Mark Twain, 1904, *Notebook*

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

7. "Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time."

— Mark Twain, 1894, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*

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