

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Codebreaking Quiz: Caesar Ciphers

A 'Caesar Cipher' is a type of coded message. It's named after the ancient Roman general, Julius Caesar, who used this trick to keep his military strategies safe. Instead of using letters from the normal alphabet, he used letters from a made-up 'cipher' alphabet to send his messages. These letters were three spaces to the right of the normal letters.

Here's how to create a Caesar Cipher:

Draw a grid with 2 rows and 27 columns. Fill in the top row with letters of the normal alphabet. Fill in the bottom row with letters that are three spaces to the right of the normal. This row will become your cipher alphabet. Instead of 'A', your cipher alphabet will start with 'D' and end with 'C'. Your grid should look like this:

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

If you wanted to send the message 'HELP', all you'd have to do is find the letter 'H' in the 'normal' row and write down the cipher letter underneath. It's K. Then, you'd do the same for 'E', 'L', and 'P'. Eventually, you'd get 'KHOS', which is the Caesar Cipher for 'HELP'.

Now use the grid above to crack the Caesar Ciphers on the next page. Remember, to solve them, you'll need to find the cipher letter first and write down the 'normal' letter above it.

After you crack the following Caesar Ciphers, see if you can make your own Caesar Ciphers by using the grid!

Good luck!

Directions: Decode the following Caesar Ciphers. Remember to use the grid on the previous page.

1. VSB _____

2. DJHQW _____

3. PLVLRQ _____

4. WUHDVXUH _____

5. EH FDUHIXO _____

6. ZDWFK RXW _____

7. GDQJHU _____

8. VHFUHW _____

9. PHVVDJH _____

10. WUDLQLQJ _____