

**WINTER / HOLIDAY
CRYPTOGRAM
PUZZLE BOOKLET
2024**

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Solving Cryptograms: A Step-by-Step Guide

Cryptograms are word puzzles where each letter is replaced with another letter. Solving them is like decoding a secret message! This guide will take you through the basics of how to solve cryptograms, with helpful tips and techniques.

Step 1: Understand the Rule

1. **Substitution Cipher:** Each letter in the cryptogram stands for a different letter of the alphabet. For example, if "A" is used as "M," it will remain "M" throughout the puzzle.

2. **Spaces and Punctuation:** Spaces, commas, periods, and other punctuation are not coded, so they stay the same. Use them to identify word breaks and sentence structure.

Step 2: Start with Common Words and Pattern

1. **Short Words:** Look for one- or two-letter words
Likely candidates for one-letter words are "A" or "I."

Common two-letter words include "of," "to," "is," "it," "at," "in," "on," and "by."

2. **Apostrophes:**

Words with apostrophes often indicate contractions like "can't," "don't," "isn't" "it's," ... or possessives (like "John's.") (In other words, it's either a "T" or "S")

Step 3: Analyze Letter Frequency

1. **Common Letters:** The most frequently used letters in English are "E," "T," "A," "O," "I," "N," and "S." If a letter appears often in the cryptogram, it might be one of these.

2. **Common Digraphs:** Pairs like "TH," "HE," "AN," and "IN" appear a lot in English. Look for repeating pairs of letters in the cryptogram.

Step 4: Test Your Guesses

1. **Substitute Letters:** Once you think you know what a letter represents, write it above or below the cipher text. Use pencil or erasable marker if solving on paper.

2. **Check for Words:** See if your substitutions form recognizable words. Adjust if needed.

Step 5: Look for Common Word Endings

1. **Suffixes:** Words ending in "ING," "ED," "TION," or "NESS" are common. Look for patterns that match these endings.

2. **Prefixes:** Watch for starting letters that might indicate "UN," "RE," "DIS," or "PRE."

Practice Makes Perfect

The more cryptograms you solve, the better you'll get at spotting patterns and solving puzzles quickly.

Have fun!

- DAVID POWERS
- ARTIST AND PUZZLE GEEK
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PUZZLE #1

(EASY)

XSUI'P ISN ANPI WGNPNDI

JD ISN XHGOT?

JIP Y AGHCND TGFQ.

LHF BFPI ZYD'I ANYI JI!

PUZZLE #2

(A LITTLE BIT TOUGHER)

ULFP ZD IDY BFHH F

GCDUXFC ULD GOCNG FCZ

THFIG "POCI ZFCBSW"

DC PLS TOFCD?

XSHPOC' RDLC

PUZZLE 3:

(A LITTLE TOUGHER)

DOIA'T A0Z LZTA DIJ SVK I

TBVDYIB AV WZA IKVMBR

AVDB HMNUGXJ?

LJ NUNUXZ.

PUZZLE 4:

(CHALLENGING)

NCK HCJT LCCH XGAL

(TVGAB) KJAWJTFVT FGXJ

NGT EGOOV?

CAJ BNVB'T HJJE EVA,

WSGTE VAH JMJA.

HINTS

PUZZLE 1: S = H, N = E, O = L, W = P

PUZZLE 2: S = E, N = G, O = I, W = R

PUZZLE 3: S = F, N = I, O = H, W = G

PUZZLE 4: S = R, N = H, O = Z, W = C

ABOUT ME

**WHEN NOT CREATING OR WORKING ON PUZZLES, I'M
AN ENTERTAINER AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER
IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN.**

MENTALISM

**BASICALLY, I USE MY PERFORMING SKILLS
TO MYSTIFY AUDIENCES WITH AMAZING
TESTS IN THE POWER OF THE HUMAN MIND.**

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**I ALSO OWN A SMALL GRAPHIC DESIGN / ART COMPANY
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ABOUT ME

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