

Abraham Cowley 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: E = O

Hard · 52 letters

P G O H M G O Z Z U F E H E A V

T E W V Y V W L K E P K, O K F

N O L V H G V O R V H E D E N V

N J E P K?

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: S = E

Hard · 54 letters

Y E H S, E G U F F L F F B W Y U W

I S K S K M D Q S, W Y S E K F C

A Y S U H U K M D K L R S Q B U F

A D Q S.

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: G = N

Hard · 63 letters

G R U T K G P K M U T C Z C U R
 Q R J C , S G W G R U T K G P
 L S M U , X V U S G C U C Z G S Y
 G R N W R C M S Y N S E M Y S M 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

4. Clue: A = E

Medium · 72 letters

J L B J H V Q A T T Z Q J V K L O
 V A N A E H T B E L A Z E H
 B J K H , J L U Z A Q Q J U E G L
 B K T T B E F Q U A H T G K N B
 Q E E T A Y J H 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

5. Clue: T = E

Medium · 79 letters

L W C C U C C R I T H C U O O T O

R I T Y T, L A Y N I S O I A M C P

T Q T Y S B Y T U R M Y T P Y W Z F

J M R W? N I S, G U Z A L

G A Y U C O, R T C C G T N I S?

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: L = E

Medium · 92 letters

H F L X Q Y D P L I H P Y G D J W

E J X M P O L I L M , I L M E V

A F L P I W Q O F A V ' Y F P X M

G D J W J Z A J G G J D L Q O X

I P X M , A F L O D L P A Y L P

E L F L I M P X M G I L M .

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: O = A

Medium · 120 letters

J L A J L V D X J S A O D J L
X W O F X B U J L A D O V M, O M Q
Q D V M F X, O M Q Z O U A X E W D
Q D V M F O Z O V M; J L A
U R O M J X X B K F V M J L A
A O D J L, O M Q O D A H V J L
K W M X J O M J Q D V M F V M Z
E D A X L O M Q E O V D.

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)

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Answer key

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1. "What shall I do to be forever known, And make the age to come my own?"

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Poems, The Motto* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

2. "Hope, of all ills that men endure, The only cheap and universal cure."

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Poems, The Mistress. For Hope* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

3. "Nothing is there to come, and nothing past, But an eternal now does always last."

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Davideis, Book I. Line 25* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

4. "An harmless flaming meteor shone for hair, And fell adown his shoulders with loose care."

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Davideis, Book II. Line 95* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

5. "Fill all the glasses there, for why should every creature drink but I? Why, man of morals, tell me why?"

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Poems, From Anacreon, II. Drinking* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

6. "When Israel was from bondage led, Led by the Almighty's hand from out of foreign land, The great sea beheld and fled."

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Davideis, Book I. Line 41* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

7. "The thirsty earth soaks up the rain, And drinks, and gapes for drink again; The plants suck in the earth, and are with constant drinking fresh and fair."

— Abraham Cowley, 1656, *Poems, From Anacreon, II. Drinking* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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