

Laozi Cryptograms — Set 1

6 puzzles · Large 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: W = E

Expert · 42 letters

I U W T C V I

C N W M S C E W T I U W

U F M Z ; F Y Z I U W P W F G

I U W T I M C Y H .

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: M = T

Hard · 43 letters

J Q W K N M B D M D W R

N M W O A M X V M W H R

N R R U M Q T R

S D W D K Q G O A D X .

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: T = A

Expert · 51 letters

Q T S T D A B Z O B E D A

B Z Z H Y Y N U T S I

G U T W ; T D A B Z

I U T D A , X B E Q T S I

Z D E F S 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: M = N

Hard · 54 letters

H A I M B J I H A B H Y B M

N I M B J I R V G M U H

H A I I M R Q T V M W B M R

Q M Y A B M W V M W M B J 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

5. Clue: F = I

Hard · 55 letters

X B P H F U N L R E F V Q

V G F A F X - K F H P

X B F U N , Q U L O Q U U R X

J P N R X J T Q O X F S P

L R F U N .

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: P = H

Hard · 58 letters

U C U H C P K I W N P P U H
L I C S X O U L N
P U S H T M A N K T X C
C P X C P T R X L
X R R I S J M U H P C P T 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

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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Page 6 of 7

Answer key

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1. "The soft overcomes the hard; and the weak the strong."

— Laozi, 1891, *Tao Te Ching* (James Legge translation, 1891)

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

2. "Words that are strictly true seem to be paradoxical."

— Laozi, 1891, *Tao Te Ching* (James Legge translation, 1891)

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

3. "Man at his birth is supple and weak; at his death, firm and strong."

— Laozi, 1891, *Tao Te Ching* (James Legge translation, 1891)

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

4. "The name that can be named is not the enduring and unchanging name."

— Laozi, 1891, *Tao Te Ching* (James Legge translation, 1891)

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

5. "The kingdom is a spirit-like thing, and cannot be got by active doing."

— Laozi, 1891, *Tao Te Ching* (James Legge translation, 1891)

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

6. "It is through his not making himself great that he can accomplish them."

— Laozi, 1891, *Tao Te Ching* (James Legge translation, 1891)

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