

Laozi Cryptograms — Set 4

5 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: Q = E

Easy · 93 letters

S R S U R V Y N F T V

R V Q S Y P N R G Q S P T

Z F C C N Z

R V Q I U Q C D Q U R V M R

R V Q H X M P M Z Z N Y J

R N U Q Q I A N Y P M P J

P N R M O O Q M Y P Q A

M P J X N I O C Q R Q .

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: X = E

Medium · 99 letters

R B X L X F K Z D N B U

B X F A X D F D V X F L R B

F L X F H P X R Z

X D V M L X F D V

W Z D R S D M X R B M K

P Z D C S K H X W F M K X

R B X U V Z D Z R P S A X

Z J , Z L J Z L ,

R B X Q K X P A X 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

3. Clue: C = E

Hard · 105 letters

C G C I U Q F C A F O K C

Z Q I E V D F Q Z J O K X O

O K C J Q Y O

Q G C I H Q T C J O K C

K X I V , X F V O K C Z C X D

O K C J O I Q F B , M L O F Q

Q F C A J X M E C O Q

H X I I U A O Q L O A F

W I X H O A H 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: H = E

Medium · 107 letters

V Y H E D U H V Y R V Y H

H W N H Z S I M D U

D V Y H U I, V Y H E D U H

S D H I Y H N D I I H I I

D M Y F I D G Z; V Y H

E D U H V Y R V Y H

C F K H I V D D V Y H U I,

V Y H E D U H S D H I Y H

Y R K H Y F E I H P 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

5. Clue: P = E

Easy · 123 letters

L U U M F C C F E W U Y

Y B F X J H F X Y B P

K D T U M L T P H W T P Y D

L T F H P C T D O L

S T P I F D W H H Y L Y P F X

K B F E B Y B P G K P T P

P L H G , L X M L U U

J T P L Y Y B F X J H C T D O

D X P F X K B F E B Y B P G

K P T P H O L U 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

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. "It is through their not being full of themselves that they can afford to seem worn and not appear new and complete."

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

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

2. "The reason why heaven and earth are able to endure and continue thus long is because they do not live of, or for, themselves."

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

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

3. "Every one in the world knows that the soft overcomes the hard, and the weak the strong, but no one is able to carry it out in practice."

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

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

4. "The more that he expends for others, the more does he possess of his own; the more that he gives to others, the more does he have himself."

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

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

5. "All difficult things in the world are sure to arise from a previous state in which they were easy, and all great things from one in which they were small."

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

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