

Michel de Montaigne Cryptograms — Set 1

6 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: D = E

Hard · 40 letters

S O X L D N S B B D R D C

J A L D L S B G Q E X B H , X Y E D

E S L E X N L D J Y .

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: B = E

Expert · 40 letters

O B F K B H C I X B G B B H

I E K T N B E G A J C B T N Y F H

E Y K B M J T W 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

3. Clue: F = E

Expert · 42 letters

I X G C K I A K V V X E K H N W J

R F W K F B F Y Z V Q C Z G Q F

W F Z V G M I X 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

4. Clue: M = E

Medium · 45 letters

J M B J G B C G E X M G Y C D O

P M M E P G R L G T P B F J G A M

B J M E F P B V F X Q 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: G = E

Hard · 45 letters

V G U C Z G V P Q W C F W W P

M G Y X G E G D O C W W O G B

Y G C Q W H U L G Z Q W C U L .

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 = E

Expert · 46 letters

X K P A P G A P L D O P

Z P J P G X L O D A P

X A Q M O B K G E X X K G E

R Q Y X D A Q P L .

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. "A wise man never loses anything, if he has himself."

— Michel de Montaigne, 1580, *Essays, Book I, Chap. xxxviii. Of Solitude* (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)

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

2. "Few men have been admired by their own domestics."

— Michel de Montaigne, 1588, *Essays, Book III, Chap. II. Of Repentance* (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)

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

3. "Nothing is so firmly believed as what we least know."

— Michel de Montaigne, 1580, *Essays, Book I, Chap. XXXI. Of Divine Ordinances* (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)

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

4. "He that I am reading seems always to have the most force."

— Michel de Montaigne, 1580, *Essays, Book II, Chap. XII. Apology for Raimond Sebond* (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)

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

5. "Men are most apt to believe what they least understand."

— Michel de Montaigne, 1588, *Essays, Book III, Chap. XI. Of Cripples* (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)

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

6. "There are some defeats more triumphant than victories."

— Michel de Montaigne, 1580, *Essays, Book I, Chap. XXX. Of Cannibals* (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)

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