

Oliver Wendell Holmes Cryptograms — Set 1

4 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: L = T

Medium · 58 letters

V L W R G N W L P E

R K L O T R Y P N P T V D ,

L W R G N W B R G W V M O

G L L O Y O J P L V

W G T J Y O J L P U O E .

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: Q = E

Medium · 64 letters

F W Q R N Z R J E V N Z J

J F R O B F W N V P B W

H P N O J G O Z S V V N Q ,

U R L Q W Q Z B Q W V B J

Z N Q J J Q Z R O U G E 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

3. Clue: D = A

Hard · 68 letters

O X E O P X S C D S W D Z X

O F Y I D H X P T Z X

M D Y S E Y Q E K I S C D S

O F S A E O O X H I E Y

S C X H D T P H E D G

S H D A Z 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

4. Clue: P = T

Expert · 73 letters

P L T M C F Z X J P L T
T M D P L Z P F Y R Z X K P
W F Z F G I O P L D X K H L
P L T Y T Q P D T X J
T M Y L M Q B T W T D O
P X E Q X D Y F P O .

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

Answer key

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1. "A thought is often original, though you have uttered it a hundred times."

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1858, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table, I* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

2. "Their discords sting through Burns and Moore, Like hedgehogs dressed in lace."

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1836, *Poems (1836), The Music-Grinders* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

3. "People that make puns are like wanton boys that put coppers on the railroad tracks."

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1858, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table, I* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

4. "The axis of the earth sticks out visibly through the centre of each and every town or city."

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1858, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table, VI* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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