

Pliny the Elder 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: B = I

Medium · 48 letters

X O C V G D I B Z T B V K

B E G D F I S S F J G Z Z

T F X V , G Z Z S O C L B P C

T C E C Y S B 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

2. Clue: C = E

Hard · 52 letters

O L J P X G C F R E C

A Q O L C P F R E E R I

M H R Y C H G L J P L O I

B O I C L J C H C O X

L H Q L J .

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 = T

Medium · 62 letters

F O A D A W F J Y I Z X W ,

I W F O A E H P P H Z

J Q H G A Q D O I W X F , F H

J Q H C X F D V F O A

C H Y Y V H C H F O A Q W .

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: K = E

Medium · 74 letters

C K Y F A Y Y T Q F I L ,
D K U E J L K Y T K G E H K
U A N N A F , K F M A G S A H
Y T E Y Y T K C K L L
L T E H K A S A J H
U A F L Q X K H E Y Q A F .

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. "When a building is about to fall down, all the mice desert it."

— *Pliny the Elder, 77, Natural History (Naturalis Historia), Book VIII. Sect. 103 (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)*

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

2. "It has become quite a common proverb that in wine there is truth."

— *Pliny the Elder, 77, Natural History (Naturalis Historia), Book XIV. Sect. 141 (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)*

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

3. "The best plan is, as the common proverb has it, to profit by the folly of others."

— *Pliny the Elder, 77, Natural History (Naturalis Historia), Book XVIII. Sect. 31 (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)*

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

4. "Let not things, because they are common, enjoy for that the less share of our consideration."

— *Pliny the Elder, 77, Natural History (Naturalis Historia), Book XIX. Sect. 59 (in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891)*

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