

Samuel Johnson 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: Y = E

Expert · 41 letters

T P E X T N M H X

N D P I J V Y X A Y R Y S

B S P H Y Y Q I Y L H C P S

E P T Y Z .

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: E = I

Hard · 41 letters

L N Z P M E C I U S A N

E W G T U U E H R N P T

J E R E I N C F N S C J

U Q E R R .

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

Medium · 41 letters

B V B I M H C L N Z

S Q R Q H H Q N M L C H Q H

I Z N C B H Q J W

L C K C R N C 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

4. Clue: J = A

Medium · 41 letters

J T J F H M Z Z I O C F

W B L C K J Z E J

Z M Q C J C A I W T J U L

W F L Q W W 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

5. Clue: O = E

Expert · 41 letters

O U W X D S O G H W S V W F H

X E C O O Y Y G T W T G E A H

M K W I D C O T O D 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

6. Clue: S = EHard · 42 letters

S K Y O A H K S U M , I R P ,

T U J G T P J I G R Y I

Y P S B S U M

K S O T U N G A O 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

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. "No man but a blockhead ever wrote except for money."

— Samuel Johnson, 1791, *Boswell, Life of Johnson, Life of Johnson (Boswell). Vol. VI. Chap. III. 1776*
(in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

2. "Few things are impossible to diligence and skill."

— Samuel Johnson, 1759, *Rasselas, Chap. XII* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

3. "A man used to vicissitudes is not easily dejected."

— Samuel Johnson, 1759, *Rasselas, Chap. XII* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

4. "A man will turn over half a library to make one book."

— Samuel Johnson, 1791, *Boswell, Life of Johnson, Life of Johnson (Boswell). Vol. V. Chap. VIII. 1775*
(in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

5. "Example is always more efficacious than precept."

— Samuel Johnson, 1759, *Rasselas, Chap. XXX* (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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

6. "Employment, sir, and hardships prevent melancholy."

— Samuel Johnson, 1791, *Boswell, Life of Johnson, Life of Johnson (Boswell). Vol. VI. Chap. IX. 1777*
(in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., 1891*)

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