

Sydney Smith 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: W = A

Hard · 41 letters

Y N N I D F W H A Q H V D V W F

 S W Y I D F H M X W A Z V M N B M

 N Q M V D W X 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

2. Clue: U = A

Hard · 47 letters

U I , M V L K T U F V L P

 Z F Z P M N I X C S ; M V L U P Z

 N I Z F U C X T T U V K

 A V E X Z N 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

Hard · 51 letters

O R J D F Y S F K E L F U

E L U Z H A Q F Q Z H W Y D A F R

E L F R Q - F J M D J F D J

L U V Z E F U 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

4. Clue: Q = O

Expert · 52 letters

L F Q Y I R A L Z G , N K V I Q

B Q V R G G S X T Q W P , -

B Q V A Y B X R Q G D O G B R Y F G

L R X T Q W P .

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: M = E

Medium · 66 letters

X W U M K V X U M Q S

Q V U I X F S Y T N M U S W X T P

W T I M W S C T O M B M Y Y

X P W T S Q F T W F A

V P G M U Q W S P G X P 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

6. Clue: Q = E

Expert · 70 letters

H N V O N E U Q H N A M J V N

Y N R Q T J B F K B H E

E Q Y Q H V P U X B V J ; J B F

B H V Q P P Q Y V B F

B K Z T N Z Q T P U Q C Z N F Q 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

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. "Looked as if she had walked straight out of the ark."

— Sydney Smith, 1855, *Lady Holland's Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, Vol. I. p. 157 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

2. "Ah, you flavour everything; you are the vanilla of society."

— Sydney Smith, 1855, *Lady Holland's Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, Vol. I. p. 262 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

3. "Daniel Webster struck me much like a steam-engine in trousers."

— Sydney Smith, 1855, *Lady Holland's Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, Vol. I. p. 267 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

4. "Avoid shame, but do not seek glory, - nothing so expensive as glory."

— Sydney Smith, 1855, *Lady Holland's Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, Vol. I. p. 88 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

5. "It requires a surgical operation to get a joke well into a Scotch understanding."

— Sydney Smith, 1855, *Lady Holland's Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, Vol. I. p. 15 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

6. "Not body enough to cover his mind decently with; his intellect is improperly exposed."

— Sydney Smith, 1855, *Lady Holland's Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, Vol. I. p. 258 (in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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