

Cryptograms for the week ending December 10, 2026

7 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: A = O

Medium · 49 letters

C Z S B A R Z U X Z C O A U

Q R A X S Q, U A X C Z S

I W Z X B C B T V A J R A

Q Z C I S L Q V C N .

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 = E

Hard · 55 letters

R O U H U N R Y D T R S

P O U U F T S X F N U B A X L

E N R S R F T R S P O U U F

N S K U H S I T U B N U X 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

3. Clue: S = E

Expert · 42 letters

S Q N S U Z S D V S Z Y

Y Z B N C T L K S D O B S

P S E Z R S J G U

B Z Y L O F S 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

4. Clue: G = E

Medium · 57 letters

O V G V L A A Y D G R R W S

M W H J N Y S G K G A G D K R

H A W D O V G U H L N Y O M

W S M W H J O V W H B V O 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

5. Clue: X = E

Medium · 64 letters

R L X M X H R K B C I F H R
M X K S R U P S Q R L U B Z H
U B R L X A F O Q C
W K B B F R M X H X X B F O
X G X B R F S W L X C .

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: G = E

Medium · 55 letters

S F F S G Q X Z X G T G X X

Q S C J Q X V F W T A V J F

T Q D J C G S X C J G

K Z W A G S X F I

E S F C J G 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

7. Clue: X = E

Hard · 44 letters

W T H I J W P P G X Y H Z Y O

X B X G Y L I J X B X M

Z J H I T E H

X W H I E O J Y O C .

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 wordsOF 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 apostropheT (don't) S (it's) RE (we're) VE (I've) LL (we'll) D
(I'd)

Answer key

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1. "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."

— *Louisa May Alcott, 1868, Little Women*

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

2. "The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."

— *Mark Twain, 1896, Notebook*

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

3. "Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes."

— *Oscar Wilde, 1892, Lady Windermere's Fan*

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

4. "The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts."

— *Marcus Aurelius, 170, Meditations*

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

5. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched."

— *Helen Keller, 1903, The Story of My Life*

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

6. "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

— *Charles Dickens, 1865, Our Mutual Friend*

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

7. "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841, Circles*

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