

Pigpen Cipher Practice

Learn the rule on Page 1, decode on Page 2, check your work on Page 3.

01 How the Pigpen Cipher Works

Each letter sits in a cell of one of four grids. Its symbol is the shape of that cell's borders, with a dot added for grids 2 and 4. Use the reference below to decode the exercises.

GRID 01
A - I

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

GRID 02
J - R

J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R

GRID 03
S - V

	S	
V		T
	U	

GRID 04
W - Z

	W	
•Z		X•
	Y	

02 Warm-Up — Decode the Word

Each symbol below stands for one letter. Use the grids above to decode each word.

1

Answer _____

2

Answer _____

3

Answer _____

4

Answer _____

5

Answer _____

Decode the Phrase

Use the four grids on Page 1 as your reference.

01 Level 1 — Decode the Phrase

Decode each phrase letter-by-letter using the grid reference on Page 1.

1

Answer _____

2

Answer _____

3

Answer _____

4

Answer _____

02 Level 2 — Decode the Longer Phrase

Longer phrases this round — take your time and decode word by word.

1

Answer _____

2

Answer _____

3

Answer _____

03 Level 3 — Encode Your Own

Convert each plaintext below into Pigpen symbols. Draw your symbols on the line.

1 Plaintext: "I LIKE CIPHERS"

2 Plaintext: "MEET ME AT DAWN"

For Teachers & Parents

Full decoded plaintext for every exercise on Pages 1 and 2.

01 Warm-Up

- 1 CIPHER
- 2 CODE
- 3 PUZZLE
- 4 SECRET
- 5 PIGPEN

02 Level 1 — Decode the Phrase

- 1 JOIN THE LODGE
- 2 BREAK THE CODE
- 3 HIDE THE KEY
- 4 MEET AT MIDNIGHT

03 Level 2 — Decode the Longer Phrase

- 1 EVERY SYMBOL TELLS A STORY
- 2 PRACTICE MAKES YOU SMARTER
- 3 CIPHERS REVEAL HIDDEN TRUTHS

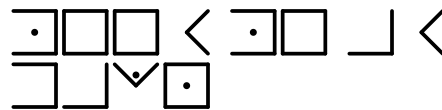
04 Level 3 — Encode Your Own

Sample ciphertext shown below each plaintext.

- 1 I LIKE CIPHERS



- 2 MEET ME AT DAWN



TEACHING NOTE

Where to go next

Once students are confident with Pigpen, introduce related substitution ciphers. The Caesar cipher (shift-based) and the Atbash cipher (alphabet reversal) make natural next steps. The Vigenère cipher is a strong follow-up for older students — it uses a keyword to encrypt and resists simple letter-frequency analysis.