



Solving TIPS

RISHU

T – Title – Do not overlook the cipher title as a good source for potential plaintext word in the cipher text. A case in point is illustrated by our sample cipher.

The – Keep on the lookout for repetitive three letter CIPHERTEXT (trigraphs) repeats which could signal the existence of the word “the” in the plaintext.

I – IQ – Sorry, but this is the only way I can slip the letter “Q” into our FEW POCKET TIPS acronym. The letter “q” is usually followed by the letter, “u” and then by a vowel, “a, e, i, or o.”

P – Position of letters – Most popular letter positions in a word – **a**, first or next to last; **e**, second or next to last or last; **i**, third from end; **o**, second; **u**, first or next to the last; **y**, last.

S – Short words – Keep an eye out for these short words – in, it, is, of, no, on, and, the

More detail on these techniques and many others are available in THE ACA AND YOU HANDBOOK.

The Joy of Pencil and Paper Solving.

The *Cm* cipher title and cribs provide extensive openings to employ the computer research tools at our disposal to unveil stores of input while working on the solving process with pencil and paper to uncover additional cipher plaintext. Check out the **JA Cm E-1 Checkerboard** by **WORD WIZARD** which title suggests advertising in verse, and crib offers “oncoming”. Burma Shave fits nicely at the cipher’s end and a check on Google of the Burma Shave ads will supply the line for “oncoming cars,” leading to much additional plaintext.

The Cryptogram Index

LIONEL

Our *Cm* Index is completed through ND 2023 and we will send you dates of any past *Cm* articles of interest.

Universal Phoebee Circular Cipher Slide, for Beaufort, Gronsfeld, Porta, Portax, Vigenere cipher solving. (Free)

The Tyro Tutorial

This is available at our ACA web site under Resources. It describes the solution process to some thirty different cipher types, a comprehensive listing of Null Variables by BION and the use of Google as a solving tool.

ZANAC’s Gimme a Break – SO Aristocrats (may be digraphs / trigraphs)

A-1, you (2), A-2, the (2), A-3, every (2), A-4, ing (4), A-5, of, A-6, you (2), A-7, and, A-8, fish (2), A-9, you (4), A-10, those (3), A-11, the (2), A-12, the, A-13, left (2), A-14, the (2), A-15, the (3), A-16, too (2), A-17, horse (2), A-18, the (3), A-19, the, A-20, the (2), A-21, golf, A-22, people, A-23, the (2), A-24, better, A-25, T = j, E = b.

ZANAC’s Gimme a Break - SO Patristocrats (may be digraphs / trigraphs)

P-1, eat (2), P-2, ing (2), P-3, the (2), P-4, the (5), P-5, the (2), P-6, books, P-7, has the, P-8, the (2), P-9, the (3), P-10, In the, P-11, the (2), P-12, At the, P-Sp-1, C – IEQC = upon, alliteration, P-Sp-2, H – alliteration, the (2).

JA. JA-1. Ornamental. My love of lines AMADI
 Solve as a Patristocrat, assigning identical letters to each different set of lines. Begins, "Choosing"
JA. A-24. Alan King skit. K4. Plaintext begins, "I'll sign" WORD WIZARD
JA.P-11. Certainty? K3. (NLOY) Plaintext begins, "It's" ANAPEST
JA. X-3. Esperanto. Proverbs. K2. (argento) IEAPCKD = silento THE RAT
JA. X-6. Swedish. Relationer. K2. (underbar) Additional crib – att-2 OOBOO
JA. X-10. Vigenere. A bizarre classical love story. (emmenee) Period Seven. Begins, "Psyche" SHMOO
JA. X-Sp-2. Portuguese. ????? Universal feminine truth. SHMOO
 PARROT: Fractionated Morse. Extended tip "deve estar procurando" placed at position 93-3
JA. E-1. Checkerboard. Ad-verse-tising, 1935. (oncoming) Verse by the side of the road. W. WIZARD
JA. E-6. Monome Dinome. Second voyage. (memorable) Plaintext begins, "The most" PELKABO
JA. E-10. Gromark. Politician's favorite implement? Crib expansion, "a proposed addition to" TSIOLKOVSKY
JA. E-13. Nihilist Substitution. Artificial Intelligence. PERIOD NINE. DANEEL
 PARROT: Crib addition: "robot series and" Plaintext start "I used a iChat"
JA. E-14. Phillips. Live in full. MSCREP: Crib expansion, "you'll never be hurt, sing" SILCO
JA. E-22. Porta. Moby Dick. (QBCNY) PARROT: Period Ten. Begins, "The whale." THE RAT
JA. E-23. Seriated Playfair. Unique field of study. (ofconsciousnex) PARROT: Pt. begins, "The study of" BION
JA.E-25. Tri-Square. Missing 52% of contributors. (a misconception on America) FOUR-DEE
 PARROT: Plaintext begins, "According to experimental"
JA. E-26. Quagmire IV. Iconic disaster. Period Seven. PELKABO
 Crib extension "Patrick OLearyadayandahalflaterthreehundred" placed at position 93"
JA. C-1. Square Root. (Two words, 0-9) A = 1, O = 6, Y = 9 APEX DX
JA. C-6. Division. (Two words, 0-9) B = 0, T = 4, H = 7 PHILLIES
JA. C-12. Undecimal Subtraction. (Three words, 0-1) L = 9, F = 6, t = 4 FUNERALLY
JA. C-13. Addition. (One word, 0-9) P = 0, E = 4, I = 7 SHMOO
JA. AC-1377. Numbered key. MSCREP: Extended key – "is a prospect Dante never cons-" BION
SO-4. Autumn Triplets. ????? Solve as a Patristocrat. CONFUOCO
SO.A-25, High jinks. K1. Proper noun begins, "Jack" GGMA
SO. P-10. Hell on earth. K3. (MYPYH) Additional crib: "Hadean eon" SCORPIUS
SO. X-3. Italian. Pasta and wine. K2. DaVinci quote, begins, L'uomo" LIONEL
SO. X-7. ????? Big problem. K2. English key. Romance language. Begins, "Es" BION
SO. E-1. Null. Message for both of you. (or) Exam the last letter of each ciphertext word. STAR SPOWLSE
SO. E-3 Cadenus. Fools. (of fools) Begins with "The," includes two quadgraphs. SHMOO
SO. E-4. Fractionated Morse. Where the word comes from. (Which pil-) Title identifies first word. BION
SO. E-5. Railfence. Miniscule humor. (said) Title identifies plaintext opening. TSIOLKOVSKY
SO. E-6. Route Transposition. Beyond Comprehension. (VIXCYM) Diagonal in, row out. HODDI
SO. E-9. Baconian. On nonspecificity. (deal) Begins, "Crafty" APEX DX
 Crib placement: No Baconian alphabet conflicts for consecutive CT words, GRAPE, MILKY, CHOIR, UNDER
SO. E-11. Variant. Unfinished, yet feature. (anticipating) Period Eight, Eighteen century horse. SHMOO
SO. E-12. Vigenere. Dual role. (MYN MYPYHNYH) PERIOD Eight. Plaintext begins, "The" SHMOO
SO. E-13. Swagman. Not for mystery lovers. (CXSFECW) Period five.. Begins, "Imagine" BION
SO. E-21. Key Phrase. Changing times.. (offices-2) Plaintext begins, "Objects" Typewriter extinct? PELKABO
SO. C-6. Division. (Two words, 0-9) Two five letter words. B = 0, S = 6, P = 9 AILUROPHILE
SO. C-10. Duodecimal Square Root. (Two words, 0-B) First word, eight letters. O = 1, T = 5, A = 9 ARIES
SO. C-13. Undecimal Multiplication. (Two words, 1-0) A = 1, L = 5, S = 8 THE DOC
 Sunny Ciphering, LIONEL