

✓ Encrypt Your Messages with Vigenère Cipher



From "**How Can I Communicate When Networks Fail?**"

The Prepared Home Series by [Le Petit Simon](#)

Learn Morse Code: Your Lifeline in Crisis

What is the Vigenère Cipher?

It's a special way to encrypt (hide) messages using a secret key. Only someone with the key can decrypt (reveal) the message.

Let's Create a Secret Message

Message (Plaintext): HELLO **Secret Key:** CAT
How to Encrypt (Hide) the Message: Convert each letter to a number (A=0, B=1,..., Z=25): H = 7, E = 4, L = 11, L = 11, O = 14 C = 2, A = 0, T = 19 (our secret key)

Repeat the Secret Key to match the message length: CATCATC
Convert the repeated Secret Key to numbers: C = 2, A = 0, T = 19, C = 2, A = 0, T = 19
Add the Message numbers and Secret Key numbers (but if the result > 25, subtract 26):
7 (H) + 2 (C) = 9, 4 (E) + 0 (A) = 4, 11 (L) + 19 (T) = 30 → 4 (because 30 - 26 = 4), and so on...

Resulting numbers: 9, 4, 4, 4, 5 Convert the resulting numbers back to letters (A=0, B=1,..., Z=25): 9 = J, 4 = E, 4 = E, 4 = E, 5 = F

Encrypted Message (Ciphertext): JEEE F Can you decrypt it? (you need the secret key CAT for that) Decrypting the Message: Repeat the process in reverse using the same secret key CAT. Subtract the Secret Key numbers from the Ciphertext numbers (if the result < 0, add 26): 9 (J) - 2 (C) = 7 (H), 4 (E) - 0 (A) = 4 (E), and so on... Voilà! You'll get back the original Message (Plaintext): HELLO

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PERSONAL NOTES:

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