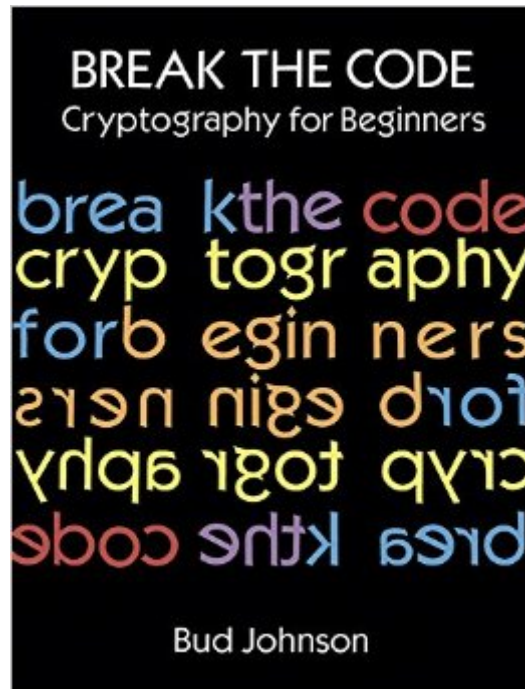


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# Break The Code: Cryptography For Beginners (Dover Children's Activity Books)



## Synopsis

No, it's not a message from outer space! Just read it backwards, starting from the bottom line, to discover what this specially coded message says. (The extra letter "X" at the beginning was thrown in just to make the message a bit more mysterious.) Codes have been used for centuries. Now, with the help of this entertaining book, you, too, will be able to decipher dozens of secret messages. Veteran cryptographer Bud Johnson not only describes the different techniques used in secret writing but also explains "clearly and simply" how to make and break six different kinds of codes: simple letter grouping, reverse trail, shift code, key word code, date shift code, and twisted path code. You'll even learn techniques for creating your own confidential messages! Cartoons by illustrator Larry Daste accompany the 51 practice messages, along with easy-to-follow instructions explaining each type of code and how to use it. There's also a glossary defining common terms used by cryptographers, a sheet of reproducible graph paper for writing out messages, and a page of ready-made alphabets for shift and key word codes. And if all those funny drawings and helpful guidelines aren't enough to help you decode our secret messages, don't worry. Solutions are included at the end of the book.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Children's Activity Books

Paperback: 84 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (May 22, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486291464

ISBN-13: 978-0486291468

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.3 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #43,978 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#3 in Books > Business & Money > Skills > Secretarial Aids & Training](#) [#42 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Word Games](#) [#65 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Puzzles](#)

Age Range: 8 - 18 years

Grade Level: 3 - 12

## Customer Reviews

I got this book for my eight year old daughter who is showing a lot of interest in codes/cryptography. This book does a great job explaining some of the basic cryptographic techniques. The stated age range for this book starts at eight years old, so I knew it could be a little challenging for my daughter but was confident she would understand. She did understand the first technique completely and was very excited to jump in and start solving some of the example messages. This is where I deduct a star. The first two coded messages she solved were very difficult for her - not because she didn't understand the method to decode the message, but because the coded message was full of proper nouns and all kinds of vocabulary that I think is beyond an eight year old. I even had to Google a few of the words that I thought were encoded to make sure she was doing it correctly. Here is the first message after she decoded it: Patience and Fortitude are renown landmarks and the mane guardians at the main entrance of the New York public library located at Fifth Avenue and Forty Second Street in New York Cicity AKA The Big Apple. That is the very first message that the child is tasked with decoding. Like I said, she perfectly understood the method she needed to use to decode this message, but trying to figure out that "DTHEM ANEGU ARDIA NSATT" equals "the mane guardians" was beyond her because even to me it didn't make sense. We have never seen or heard of the lion statues in front of the New York City library - without that context, the play on the word "mane" doesn't seem like it belongs and made her second guess as she was solving. The content of the subsequent messages were just as "tricky" for her.

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