

Directions: Read the descriptions of codes below and try each one.

A lot of codes are simple in design. Just by changing the order of words, letters, or the way you read them, can turn a message into a secret code. Changing messages into code is called encoding. Changing messages into ciphers is called enciphering. When you attempt to figure out what a secret message is you are decoding or deciphering. To decode you need a codebook.

1. Lumping Words: Get rid of spaces and returns to lump words together.
Use upper case letters to make the code harder to read and decode.
IBETTHISISHARDFORSOMEPEOPLETOREAD. = I bet this is hard
for some people to read.

2. Character Blocks: Block letters of a message by 2, 3, or more letters.
IL IK EC AT SI NT HE SU N. = I like cats in the sun.

3. Backwards English: Writing words, sentences, or entire messages
backwards. It could be confusing. KORWEMOH GNILLEPS EKIL !!
Reverse it and it becomes; I like spelling homework!

4. Selected letters: Choose a mathematical pattern to create or decipher a
secret message from a plain message. Questions under investigation
elicit top secrecy. QUIET. Explain why the answer is quiet.

5. Pin Marks: Using a newspaper or this sheet of paper. Use a pin to make
tiny holes under letters as you read. By doing this you can make a
message, barely visible, for your friends to decipher. Try it!

Adapted from Simple Codes and Ciphers on the Web.