

The Great Fire of London Secret Message

You have found this description of the Great Fire of London. You suspect it contains a secret message encrypted using Bacon's Cipher. Can you work out what it really says?



the great fire was an accident. oN ThE SEconD Of SEPTEmbeR, The KiNG's BAKER LeFT The EMbeRS oF His ovEN sMOuLDeRiNG. THIS SET LiGHT tO SoME fiReWOOD Left nearby. three hours later his bakery in pudding lane was on fire. the winds then spread the fire across london.

To decrypt a message written using Bacon's Cipher:

1. Break the message into groups of 5 letters removing punctuation and spaces.
2. Remove groups of letters that are all lower case.
3. Write the message out 5 letters at a time replacing capital letters with 'a' and lower case letters with 'b'.
4. Look up each group of 5 'a's and 'b's in turn (the ciphertext) and write down the letter from the table (the plaintext).

You may need to guess between I and J and U and V as they are each treated as one letter.

For example, given the message:

a poem: HeLLO, WorLd

1. Break it in to groups of 5 letters:
apoem HeLLO WorLd
2. Remove groups that are all lower case:
HeLLO WorLd
3. Replace by 'a's and 'b's
abbaa abbab
4. Look up the cipher text letter for each group of 5 in the table to get the message
N O

Plaintext	Ciphertext
A	aaaaa
B	aaaab
C	aaaba
D	aaabb
E	aabaa
F	aabab
G	aabba
H	aabbb
I, J	abaaa
K	abaab
L	ababa
M	ababb
N	abbaa
O	abbab
P	abbba
Q	abbbb
R	baaaa
S	baaab
T	baaba
U, V	baabb
W	babaa
X	babab
Y	babba
Z	babbb

