

Make a Code Wheel

Find a fellow agent to correspond with. (Codes are no fun if you can't send a message to someone who will read it!) Both of you can make a code wheel with exactly the same order for the letters on the inner wheel. Here are some options for the inner wheel:

Option 1: Write the alphabet clockwise around the circle just like the plain text alphabet.

Option 2: Write the alphabet counter-clockwise around the circle.

Option 3: Skip letters as you write the alphabet around the circle. Start with the letter E, and skip four letters. Roll around to the beginning of the alphabet when you reach the end. Your first three letters would be E, J, and O. If you do this correctly you should use each letter of the alphabet exactly once.

When you have finished writing the letters on the inner code wheel, line the two wheels up with the inner wheel's center on top of the outer wheel's center so you can see both sets of letters. Put a paper fastener through the wheels so that the inner wheel turns.

Choose a key word and write a message to your partner using the code wheel. Don't forget to tell your partner the key word!