



Make a coded message to a friend. Here's how: let each letter in the alphabet be equal to its number of succession. In other words, A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, and so on, all the way to Z = 26.

Then write a message. Instead of giving the numbers for each letter, write an addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division problem as the clue for each letter. For example:

1. $8 + 8 = 16$, R

2. $2 \times 2 = 4$, D

3. $1 + 1 + 2 = 4$, D

4. $19 - 0 = 19$, U

The examples shown here are easy ones. The more difficult you make the problems; the more difficult it will be for a spy to break your code.

Once you've learned this code, design your own code not using A = 1, B = 2, and so on, but instead using a pattern or formula of your own invention. Make up several messages, and give your code to someone to see if it can be broken.