



Unit 6 Lesson 1

Substitution Codes

The **Atbash Cipher** is one of the oldest substitution ciphers. It was used in the Book of Jeremiah, where *Sheshakh* (25:26 and 51:41) is written for Babel (or Babylon). It is generally considered one of the easiest ciphers to use as it follows a very simple substitution method.

The first letter of the alphabet is replaced with the last letter, the second letter is replaced with the second from last, and so on. In Hebrew, *aleph* (the first letter) is substituted with *tav* (the last letter), *beth* (the second letter) is replaced with *shin* (the penultimate letter). We can see from these letters where the cipher gets its name: the first letter is *aleph*, followed by *tav*, then *beth* and finally *shin*.

1. Write down what each letter of our alphabet would have been using the Atbash cipher:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

2. What are the following words decoded from the Atbash cipher?

ZOTVYIZ

RHLHXVOVH

3. Now come up with your own substitution code. Create 3 encrypted messages for your partner.