Interactive tool full text description: Try out a simple cipher

This tool enables you to have a go at encrypting your own message.

How it works:

- The tool is made up of an inner wheel and an outer wheel, both containing the letters A-Z.

- The learner can move the wheels around, so that the letter 'A' on the inner wheel can be aligned with the 'A' on the outer wheel. The learner can move the inner wheel to align with any letter on the outer wheel.

- The tool will display a 'shift' number according to the amount that the wheels have been moved, which is a count of the number of letters that the inner wheel has been moved past.

- By moving the inner wheel to the right, the 'shift' number changes as the learner drags the wheel around. This number is the key.

- The letter on the outer circle of letters can then be substituted with the letter on the inner circle to create an encrypted word or message.