

## Caesar Cipher technology

Caesar cipher is a type of encryption based on substitution cipher. Substitution cipher in which each letter in the plaintext is 'shifted' a certain number of places down the alphabet.

For example, with a shift of 1, A would be replaced by B, B would become C, and so on.

The method is named after Julius Caesar, who apparently used it to communicate with his generals.

### Mathematical Description

First, let's assign numbers to all characters. e.g.,  $'a' = 0, 'b' = 1, 'c' = 2, \dots, 'z' = 25$ .

We can now represent the Caesar cipher encryption function,  $e(x)$ , where  $x$  is the character as an input:

$$e(x) = (x + k) \pmod{26}$$

And  $k$  is the key (the shift) applied to each letter.

After applying this function the result is a number which must then be translated back into a letter.

The decryption function is:

$$e(x) = (x - k) \pmod{26}$$

### Now your turn

2 Use the Caesar cipher to encrypt and decrypt the message "HELLO," and the key (shift) value of this message is 14.

Hint: use either the mathematical formula or encrypt it manually by shifting each letter as required.

What about if the shift number is negative, rewrite the formula?

2 Use the Caesar cipher to encrypt and decrypt the message "HELLO," and the key (shift) value of this message is -14