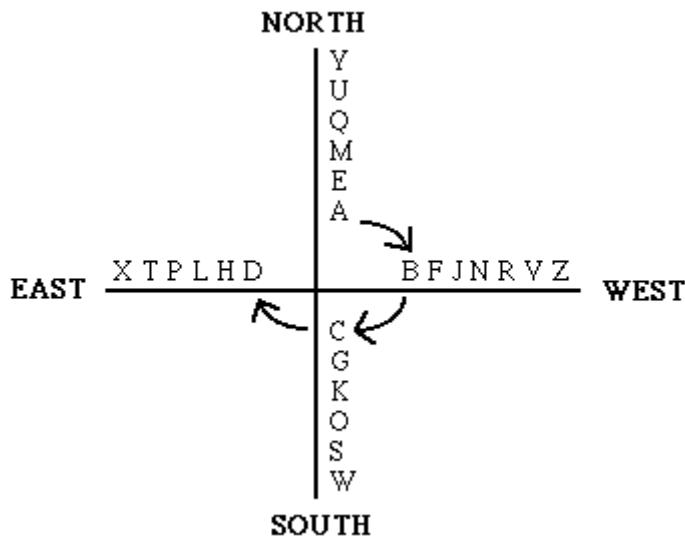


Compass Cipher - A Method for Alphabet Substitution

The compass cipher makes use of a well known pattern, the directions of north, south, east, and west. There are lots of ways to create a compass cipher key. One way, as shown below, is to make a cross in the center of your paper and write out the letters of the alphabet along each line, spiraling outwards.



The arrows show the direction used to fill in the compass lines. You can mix up your compass by making the cipher with a counter-clockwise rotation, random assignment, or unique patterns that you find useful.

Once you have all the letters written into your compass write out the letters, from outside in and then combine all of the letters into a long line. Finally, write out the plain alphabet below it to come up with an alphabet substitution cipher!

NORTH

YUQMIEA

EAST

ZVRNJFB

SOUTH

WSOKGC

WEST

XTPLHD

Compass Key: YUQMIEAZVRNJFBWSOKGCXTPLHD (NESW order)
Alphabet: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

To make a new key try putting the letters together in a different order (SNEW?).