

An ultra-easy way to make cryptic messages for your students to decode.

Type the letters of the alphabet for your key, it is best to do this in a table so that they will line up, so make a table 26 characters long. NB turn off auto capitization unless you want to have a capital key and lower case key! You can do that, but it makes it much harder for the students.

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
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

Hopefully you only typed the top line of letters and copy and pasted it into the second row ☺

Now highlight the bottom row and change the font to one of the weird fonts that is hanging about in your font folder that you've never had any use for before.

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
~	∴	♪	^	☺	h	o	o	×	\$	≠	≠	∖	/	✓	┘	'''	....	▪	**	**	♥	♠	^	☺	

I've used Bookshelf Symbol, but I could have used semaphore, sign language, webdings, wingdings, Korean bullet points....

Next get your line of text that you want to encode and highlight it.

**seek and eventually you shall find**

Change the font to the one in the key. Note that there is no capitization, be careful that Word doesn't capitalize the first word of your coded sentence when you are not looking ;-)

∴☺☺≠ ~∖^ ☺\*\*☺∖ ▪\*\*~≠≠^ ^/ \*\*....o~≠≠ h×∖^

If you don't have enough weird fonts to keep you happy for days, just go get some! If you want to add punctuation, you will have to add it to the key.

× ▪ ×.... ~.... ---×≠ ✓≠☺ ~.... ▪o~ ▪

∴^ ~∖ ▪o/∖^ o×≠≠