

Clues for solving the secret message

Below are clues to help you solve the secret message puzzle. We have chosen these clues to make it a little easier for you to solve the message, but the important thing is that none of these clues are actually specific to the message -- they're just facts about English that you (or a computer) could use to help solve any similar secret message.

1. The message is in English. What words in English only have one letter?

2. What are some words in English that only have two letters?

3. Concentrate on just the first two words in the message. What combinations would make sense grammatically? Have you figured out any of the letters? If so, write them under the symbols at the top of this page.

4. Common words in English:

One-letter words: A, I

Two-letter words: OF, TO, IN, IT, IS, BE, AS, AT, SO, WE, HE, BY, OR, ON, DO, IF, ME, MY, UP, AN, AM

Three-letter words: THE, AND, FOR, ARE, BUT, NOT, YOU, ALL, ANY, CAN, HAD, HER, WAS, ONE, OUR, OUT, DAY, GET, HAS, HIM, HIS, HOW, MAN, NEW, NOW, OLD, SEE, TWO, WAY, WHO, BOY, DID, ITS, LET, PUT, SAY, SHE, TOO, USE

Four-letter words: THAT, WITH, HAVE, THIS, WILL, YOUR, FROM, THEY, KNOW, WANT, BEEN, GOOD, MUCH, SOME, TIME

Secret Message Activity Clues

15. Let's look at the three-letter words again. Like this one, which you should know the first two letters of (second line): * ʒ *
16. This four letter word should have just one letter missing now, too (middle of third line): ʒ * ʒ *
17. Use the process of elimination to figure out the missing letter in this two-letter word (it can't be one of the letters you've already figured out) (6th line): ʒ *
18. If that last clue is still holding you up, another hint is that the last line is a question. What are some three-letter words that might be at the beginning of a question? ʒ * ʒ
19. Here's another word that should just have one letter missing by now: * ʒ * ʒ *
20. This three-letter word appears several times throughout the message. Does that help *you* narrow down which three-letter word it could be? ʒ * ʒ
21. Did you notice that this four-letter word starts with the same three letters as the word we just figured out? This should help you figure out what the symbol is that looks like a star. (4th line) ʒ * ʒ *
22. **At this point, you can probably use context clues to figure out the rest!**