

2025 ACA CONVENTION CIPHER CONTEST RULES
Instructions for All Solvers

You have ninety minutes in which to complete the contest. This contest runs from 4:30pm – 6:00pm EDT, 3:30pm – 5:00pm CDT, 2:30pm-4:00pm MDT, 1:30pm – 3:00pm MST/PDT, 8:30pm – 10:00pm UTC)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

*Since this year's convention is being held without a host city (often the inspiration for the ciphers in the contest), this year we chose the city name that is statistically most likely to be near each of our solvers! Each cipher discusses one of the many locales named **Springfield** – in the US, around the world, and even in the realms of fiction.*

1. Scoring:

- This contest contains a variety of CONs. No one is expected to solve all CONs during the contest.
- Points are awarded for providing the solution and key, keyphrase or rule, with points as indicated for each cipher.
- Partial credit may be given at the discretion of the scorers.

2. For Pencil and Paper Solvers:

- There are 12 ciphers and 100 points in all.
- You may **NOT** use a computer to aid in solving the CONs, **except** for the following:
 - You may access The ACA and You on the ACA website.
 - You may print out a copy of the contest.
 - You may use an editor to keep track of your solutions during the contest.

3. COMPUTER Solvers:

- There are three additional ciphers for total of 15 ciphers and 140 points.

4. Submitting Solutions:

- A Solutions Submission form is available for download from the page you downloaded the contest. It is a simple text file to help organize your solutions for submission.
- Enter the first five (5) words of the plaintext (or more, at your discretion) and key(s), keyphrase, rule, or period (as required) for each cipher.
- Before the end of the contest, online solvers need to submit their solutions to:

contest2025@cryptogram.org

- Although multiple submissions will be accepted, it is strongly encouraged that you only submit one set of solutions at the end of the contest.
- Scoring ties will be broken by solution submission times. If you make multiple submissions, your submission time will be the time of the last submission.
- No solutions will be accepted after the end of the contest.

Good solving! Enjoy, and have fun!

DARING FLAIR

MUK UAZK MANB AL *MUK *IVZRIABI LKFMPSKI F

ZAPBMFVB, F QASQK, FB AHKFB RASM, F QYFHVKS FBJ

F JKIKSM. AL HAPSIK BA ABK XBANI NUFM IMFMK VM'I

VB !

[illegible]

CC-1

Solution:_____

Key: _____

CC-2. Aristocrat K1. Tropical Village.
(Solution: 5 pts, Key: 2 pts)

PELKABO

XEHJO *CQDDEDSJQ XUCSRSQI SDZUPSJ JZSI *PQRSTQUD

VECCKDSJO, MEHBSDY JZQSH ZEHIQ-FEMQHQW IUMCSRR

UDW XHKSJ JHQQ DKHIQHO.

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

CC-2

Solution:_____

Key:_____

CC-3. Pat K2. Trail crossings. (historic) DARING FLAIR
(Solution: 6 pts, Key: 2 pts)

IMBVE HIBGE WGBJI YHNYI IEDIV YFJYY DWEIQ BZIVY

BSTGL HMVYG YIVYD BHITA OEWGB JIYHE PIQHE PWGBH

HYHIV YIGTO EWIGT EABZI YTGH.

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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

CC-3

Solution:_____

Key: _____

(Solution: 6 pts, Key: 2 pts)

KLZRTP KL XPU XQYQRLU HJREHXLU KL XH JQEKHK.

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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Key: _____

CC-5. Catalan Xenocrypt K2. Boom Town.
(Crib: comunitat. English key.)
(Solution: 6 pts, Key: 2 pts)

PELKABO

PAFWCEP TSRFUGEPE US GUTSBHSPVP VW *TPDGXSBUGP

IP BWQBW WD CWF USR HWB DWC PQFUVPU EC CFBYWUTGWC

AFW QBSDDPIWU VW BSAFWC TPDTPBGWC PD DDST.

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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

CC-5

Solution:_____

Key:_____

CC-6. Null. Too many for one locale? (has)
(Solution: 5 pts, Rule: 2 pts)

PELKABO

Now is his chance -- staccato noise has infected even his veranda. Sometimes its impressive apex offsets brief tranquility with eerie calm.

CC-6

Solution:_____

Rule:_____

CC-7. Complete columnar transposition. End of the line.
DARING FLAIR
(Solution: 5 pts, Key: 2 pts)

ATRLD RAIHR IICTI NTENE UEVIE FDOAH BNEET HNBNI ITEON SNDDH
EHIML ENNHO LCTWE ITVWG TENIA STFNT IUEEN SOOIS GTTEA AOHEG
SY.

CC-7

Solution:_____

Numerical key:_____

CC-8. Cryptarithm. Equations (no words, 0-9).
(8 points)

PELKABO

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{MARGE} \\
 + \text{HOMER} \\
 \hline
 \text{YELLOW}
 \end{array}$$

	M	A	R	G	E
	H	O	M	E	R
+					
Y	E	L	L	O	W

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{GORE} \\
 - \text{ARM} \\
 \hline
 \text{YLHH}
 \end{array}$$

	G	O	R	E
		A	R	M
-				
Y	L	H	H	

CC-8

Key:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

CC-9. Ragbaby. Leading the way. (...-powered) DARING FLAIR
(Solution: 5 pts, Key: 5 pts)

UKNW ENZF NW *YDLEUNG'B HSMI FP PUGYCC - TIIT IT

BWU UALEG TRUGYUFTVR, ZLF-EUPOVBB LHHUUWRFID,

NDA SQACEIGLG DSLDB CG LDFP MASLTMC, VP UDLN ZS

TIG CLYZPWVENS BI EYZTNOLGRM.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

CC-9

Solution:_____

Key:_____

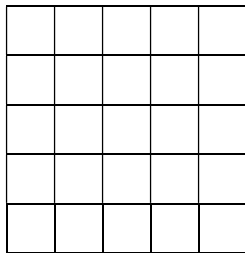
CC-10. Playfair. Ancient attraction.
(Solution: 8 pts, Key: 2 pts)

PELKABO

QM EP FL TU AL NG FM PF YL AR KL ER BM RE LA IF

NR UE ZI RA EF AL OU **EA HF PN GP IF FR** UE XI FP
rl od gi ng an

AB HA XR BW NR GP UE DB MU KR EL XI CP XE.



CC-10

Solution:_____

Key:_____

DARING FLAIR

VDVNN RLDRC G.

E	.	S	.	.	H	.	.	.	B	-	.	.	.
T	-	U	.	-	V	.	.	-	X	-	.	.	-
I	.	R	.	-	F	.	.	-	C	-	.	-	.
A	.	W	.	-	L	.	-	.	Y	-	.	-	-
N	-	D	-	.	P	.	-	-	Z	-	.	.	.
M	-	K	-	.	J	.	-	-	Q	-	-	.	-
		G	-	-									
		O	-	-									

[illegible]

Key: _____

CC-12. Monome-Diome. Enduring Bond. (it is my home) PELKABO
 (Solution: 6 pts; Row Numbers: 1 pt per number; Key: 2 pts)

94019 80708 97084 40806 94089 76089 87125 10710

24080 66944 06359 49880 89808 97027 07940 28106

04980 78580 29458 98071 06849 78307 85815 80274

08018 49406 03015 08806 0497.

CC-12

Solution: _____

Row Numbers: _____ and _____

Key: _____

COMPUTER SOLVER SUPPLEMENT

CC-13: Nihilist Substitution. Asian-American delicacy.
PELKABO

66 82 65 42 27 66 06 32 96 68 55 64 86 67 42 82 46 36 68 92
67 42 63 28 42 44 83 07 55 55 69 43 65 04 67 42 76 65 62 55
76 97 25 92 49 22 34 82 94 62 93 25 52 27 62 66 62 94 35 66
34 04 74 64 94 68 32 25 76 04 42 96 28 45 34 63 64 52 92 39
42 24 83 75 53 92 69 62 68 83 95 55 73 49 65 24 02 08 52 92
69 32 44 06 67 62 72 69 45 64 95 84 25 73 67.

Submit period, first five words of plaintext, and key for
keysquare. (Solution: 8 pts, Period: 1 pt, key: 1 pt)

COMPUTER SOLVER SUPPLEMENT

CC-14. Syllabary. Backlot.

DARING FLAIR

62 66 79 00 09 84 95 16 01 94 72 60 01 65 06 08 34 09 79 00 49 58

66 23 19 08 42 66 72 00 46 01 23 58 16 79 06 23 70 78 44 73 60 42

09 00 49 72 57 62 66 95 79 20 41 88 12 32 72 79 66 62 46 66 61 81
h o me sh

66 95 62 06 65 46 01 66 70 01 62 06 62 44 23 72 01 29 06 00 79 09
o w n i nt h e o p

58 79 66 09 70 70 33 72 01 29 16 00 46 01 46 66 61 67 60 72 95 06

58 79 66 62 66 63 35 62 06 82 49 61 62 09 23 01 09 62 29 25 70 00

09 06 62 62 01 58 79 66 62 50 06 29 72 33 60 66 42 55 33 62 62 06

01.

Submit first five words of plaintext and key for keysquare
(Solution: 8 pts, key: 2 pts)

REFERENCE SYLLABARY TABLES for CC-14

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0										
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	a	1	al	an	and	ar	are	as	at	ate
1	ati	b	2	be	c	3	ca	ce	co	com
2	d	4	da	de	e	5	ea	ed	en	ent
3	er	ere	ers	es	est	f	6	g	7	h
4	8	has	he	i	9	in	ing	ion	is	it
5	ive	j	0	k	l	la	le	m	me	n
6	nd	ne	nt	o	of	on	or	ou	p	q
7	r	ra	re	red	res	ri	ro	s	se	sh
8	st	sto	t	te	ted	ter	th	the	thi	thr
9	ti	to	u	v	ve	w	we	x	y	z

COMPUTER SOLVER SUPPLEMENT

COMPUTER SOLVER SUPPLEMENT

CC-15. Complete Columnar. Final Revolutionary battle in the state.
DARING FLAIR

AEALW IIOFO RTSAA SEORH PRDTT EFDNP HEOAN OHMEA ABURT
NBWBT HRESE EOFTB RVAEM BMROG UFEIE EDHYH EDAET LPNHE
BIIID HTIOE RTEIA MTNSS SDTNY AEGRI GESSC TWEEN VFIDF
TFTFT CHSHI DHMCS ELSNT OERKD TUSRG HNTAT ERNHL DRTEO
EBUEH ITHBL OOIRH EHUPE INETD TLLEP THOWE BREYY EMSRT
LNNMC HTAHE YECIY TTIPT UUEGS MDRLS UATIT OGEEE IYSPW
FIOTW OBAYF TRROM FRAEO LOSGT VTETA PABHN ABITE LOECT
ALLOI ROEBT RRVSS PAISA NUDTW OSASN NIUOT NCCAC EIADD
THGGS RTIET DBTOR TTAIW EONNO ESJAD EERNF IYCNW JEIEN
IAEAA NNRAE HSEES DETET ADLGE THATW RECNR TOCHL BMBHD
FEEDU OERI EEITH HRINB RNHEI IFTNN EENMN TSAGE SEWPR
FIOPV NIBUS NRSME GANSI TRHAL ANINE ATEAF H.

Submit first five words of plaintext and transposition key (in numerical or letter form). (Solution: 18 pts, key: 2 pts)