

2026 ACA CONVENTION CIPHER CONTEST
RULES

This contest runs from approximately 3:30pm – 5:00 pm EDT, 2:30pm – 4:00pm CDT, 1:30pm – 3:00pm MDT, 12:30pm – 2:00pm MST/PDT, 7:30pm – 9:00pm UTC)

Pencil and paper solvers:

1. There are 12 ciphers and 102 points in all. Points are awarded for providing the solution and the key, keyphrase or rule, with points as indicated for each cipher.
2. For the Solution, enter the first five (5) words of the plaintext (or more, at your discretion) in the box provided for each cipher.
3. Zoom participants can use the suggested Cipher Contest Solutions Submission Form to help organize their solutions for emailing.
4. For the Key, enter the keyword or keyphrase used to construct the alphabet or keysquare. There is no need to specify the route.
5. Some aids are provided for reconstruction of alphabets and keysquares. Regardless of how you use these, enter your solutions in the box provided for each cipher.
6. You will have 90 minutes to complete your submission.
7. Zoom participants:

Submit solutions via email to Contest2026@cryptogram.org

Computer Solvers:

1. There are two additional ciphers for a total of 14 ciphers and 123 points.
2. Submit the following for each cipher:
 - CC-X (the number of the cipher)
 - First five words of the plaintext
 - Period, if required
 - Keyword(s), keyphrase or rule (no need to submit routes)
 - A blank line
3. You will have 90 minutes to complete your submission.
4. Submit solutions via email to Contest2026@cryptogram.org

CONFUOCO

MJ YLH LDP OLDDEB MQ CAQP LA LD LPZVAAVED ER TCVYB VD OECSB.

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-2. Aristocrat. K1. Origin story. (black)
(Solution: 5 pts, Key: 2 pts)

BECASSE

MNL UQZPDC RLQB IQC JKCOJBLT RG Q BLQY-YJUL RYQSX RLQB KQZLT

*IJKKJL, INP YJELT QM MNL *QCCJKJRPJKL *OQBX *HPP JK

*IJKKJOLV, *ZQKJMPRQ.

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. Patriscocrat. K2. Cheers! [112/20] (hundred) CONFUOCO
(Solution: 6 pts, Key: 2 pts)

H X U F U S R E T A P D W U F H R L H R Q U D V U

F H Y E H X U K R D A T Y F X U A T Y E L Y H S X

U E U D R E H P D Y R Y H P H H D P S H F P Q R I

H F U J U E X I E T D U T H X R I F P E T J Y F Y

H R D F U P S X N U P D.

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:_____

CC-4. Patriscocrat K2. No honeycomb. [98/20] (small) BECASSE
(Solution: 6 pts, Key: 2 pts)

J G T E D E N D X C V C B J S B H S C G G V J C D

B V W V O S G H C D B D G Z C H I M H J V J H C I

N J D K Y W M H J S G S Z H L V W W N D W S H X M

L E H D G G S E S J C J C O S E V J J S G B H.

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-4

Solution:_____

Key: _____

CC-5. French Xenocrypt. K2. This tops everything. (environ)
[Dutch key] BECASSE (Solution: 6 pts, Key: 2 pts)

*AT *BHTPTQ SCLRHYG O AHY DTHA TEIYCLE ATD GCLYD BHOCGD

RT A'OSSCLIYDYLEETFTEG FLERYOA TE DYCLS R'TCOPAT.

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. Forty percent... (area)
(Solution: 5 pts, Rule: 2 pts)

CONFUOCO

DOGWOOD CONIFEROUS SPRUCE BALSAM BANANA BANYAN CYCAD

POPLAR MIMOSA CATALPA REDBAY ASPEN DECIDUOUS GUAVA

ALDER APPLE PISTACHIO BURMIS LOCUST KENAF HEMLOCK

CEDAR MAPLE SHEESHAM CHESTNUT.

CC-6

Solution:_____

Rule:_____

CC-7. Complete Columnar. Celebrate good weather. (but)
BECASSE (Solution: 5 pts, Key: 2 pts)

OIESM ICOCM EOSRN PFEIE EDAAE AOYGR BTDIG OATCS ESATY YHKEC

PTHFU NHEOA ILKMY YBNRI NRAAO UATNH E.

CC-7

Solution:_____

Numerical key:_____

CC-8. Additions. (2 words, 0-9)

CONFUOCO (8 points)

ONTARIO	MANITOBA	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
<u>+ ALBERTA</u>	<u>+ RAINALOT</u>	- - - - - - - - -
RRAAIIBT	ENIRLRNA	

CC-8

Key:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

CC-9. Keyphrase. Excellent metric. (have earned) BECASSE
(Solution: 5 pts, Key: 5 pts)

KBRR NFBS FBEE BE *WBSBAGBSI FBGR RBR SRA WBEEROR ARORRRI,

KBEGSO GN NFR IBREA'I KBIN RAGWBNRA SBNGBS.

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-9

Solution:_____

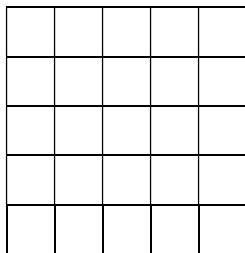
Key:_____

CC-10. Playfair. Watching you? (-ea ne rh as be en ga th-)
BECASSE (Solution: 8 pts, Key: 2 pts)

BM VD IL AH RT CZ VE HE AH BZ LO HO OB HY TX UQ RW BQ UB

RZ ZS CZ YB CT ZQ ZU MA AC TQ AI LY TG QT ER HE GA PB KB

GO BC VS CZ IM AR AC AY.



CC-10

Solution:_____

Key:_____

CC-11. Foursquare. Found by satellite.(-alparkinnorthernal-)
 CONFUOCO (Solution: 8 pts, Keys: 2 pts each)

KD NZ BS QT LK NO VI RQ UI WV NU WB QA RC BX QL NB LF ET QG

TM RD IL WG TE YA HL QK RP VM KH WG UI RP GT GG OT OR KS XM

NO QV KD YI OU PK KU GG WD UE LL IL EI QM HS WZ GN SR RC WH

WF RH IP TE UM.

a	b	c	d	e					
f	g	h	i	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	k
					l	m	n	o	p
					q	r	s	t	u
					v	w	x	y	z

CC-11

Solution:_____

Upper Right Key:_____

Lower Left Key:_____

CC-12. Fract. Morse. 19th century industrial spectacle.
(discharge) BECASSE (Solution: 8 pts, Key: 2 pts)

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

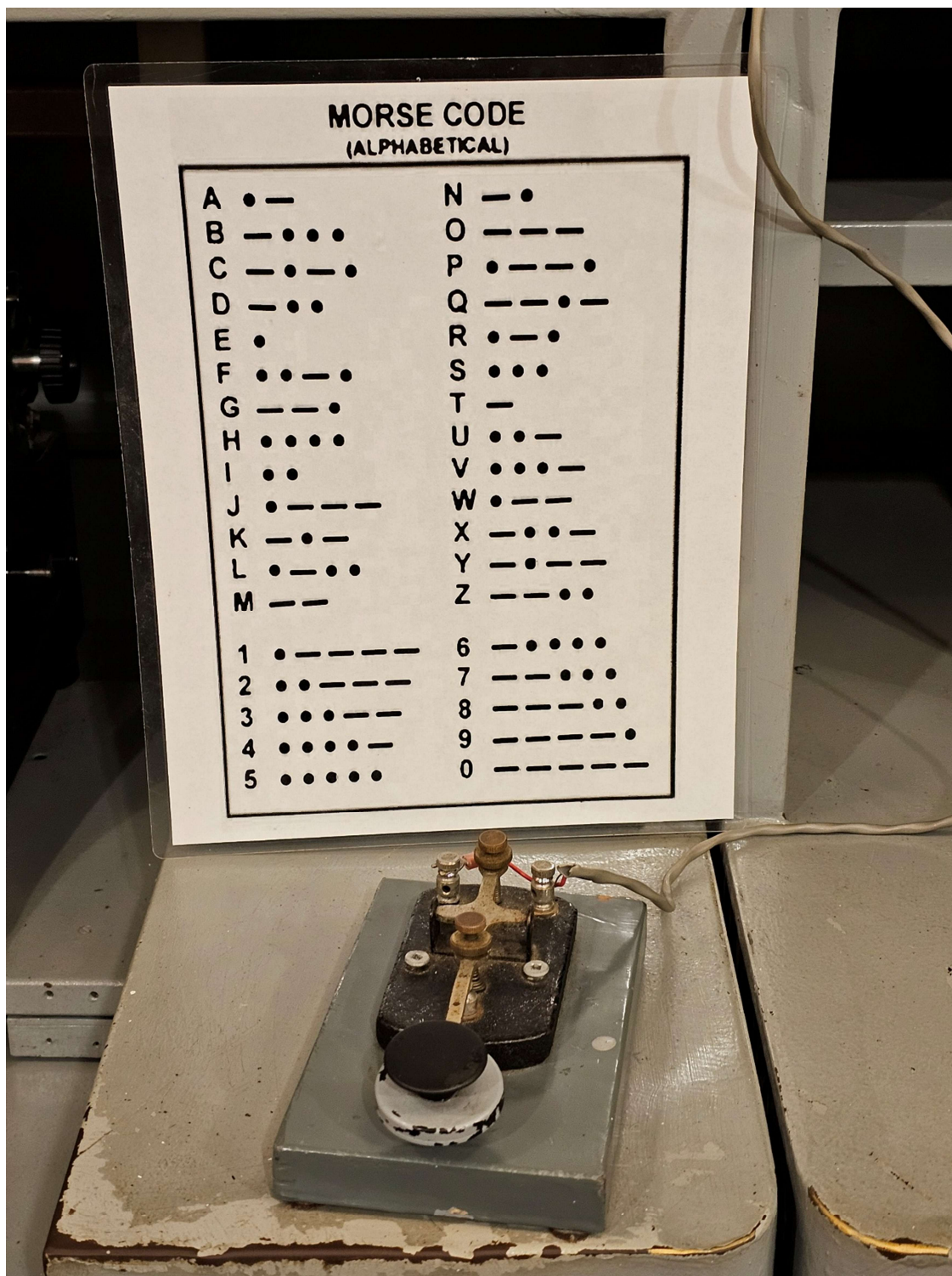
[illegible]

(Morse Code reference table on next page)

CC-12

Solution:_____

Key: _____



Radio Room of Tribal-class destroyer HMCS Haida
Hamilton, Ontario, CANADA

COMPUTER SOLVER SUPPLEMENT

CC-13. Bifid. The Friedmans at Riverbank. PELKABO
HDKRKEOUV HQEAEWXGC GIGGSMSKC NSRHSVNTYW AEDQZCSTH GFGBQLOTV
HHVHFCOTP FPHGFCXEX BKFOGHLGX HOQLANCTG FGOHFTPQX RSGBODFHC
FHTQQPEWV GSFOTDSGX GQHHCVTE IRNNSHXOA QOFLVVZOG GHLOSLWGM
andt hroughthe sw
OOSR.

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

CC-14. Quagmire IV. Lessons in discretion. [Period unknown]
(with occasions where the) PELKABO

FAXKF BFEHY KZJWH XHXNK FLSRA YVOQY AXBCE XDSDK HYSIX VGXHL
YQYOR PYWLM FYRFQ MSPOV AXDKF VDFDT NLYGV WYGTU SGQOD XPWBV
HBUCD FAYSP XIHMF WNEAY EWBXH HREHX EXREH DHFPE BFFNF TNXFO
SKDKP BWTVO CXGXO CYMFE NDHDA LRFHN CVJIK HFAYW NXQKO GLHUP
XGSCC XXVRS EAMZH QETWD FGPTH OYWXE WFCXE KMJHB RJOTS YNTYT
CXNEH LRS.

Submit period, first five words of plaintext, and keys.
(Solution: 8 pts, keys: 1 pt for each of 3 keys)