Telephone Cipher

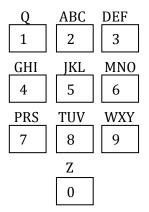
Overview: This is a cipher that is written using the telephone keypad. It's pretty simple to use once you understand the basics of how to make it work for the entire alphabet. (Have you ever noticed that the Q and Z are missing from the keypad?)

Materials

- Pencil
- Paper
- Access to a telephone keypad, or use ours below

Activity: Code machines – or cipher machines – can be used to encode and decode messages. One everyday example of a code machine that you can easily access is a telephone.

Here's the dial pad (keypad) of a telephone with Q and Z added in:



Notice how the number 2 represents A, B, and C. To be able to tell which letter you really mean when you write a 2, you'll also use symbols above the letter like this:

\ for the first letter, like A on the number 2 key

I for the letter at the middle, like B on the number 2 key

/ for the letter as the end, like C on the number 2 key

The message "PICK UP FISH" will be written as follows:

Now it's your turn! Work out the exercises below. (You'll find answers at the back of this book.)

Exercises

Encode the following using the telephone keypad:

- 1. COME BACK
- 2. LEAVE TODAY
- 3. HE ARRIVED
- 4. THEY WENT
- 5. HE IS COMING
- 6. REVEAL
- 7. GO AHEAD

Decode the following ciphers

- 8. $16\dot{3}\dot{7}\dot{4}\dot{2}\dot{2}$
- 9. 864 83 35464 366
- 10. 287 87 2542

Answers to Exercises: Telephone Cipher

- 1. 26632 225
- 2. 53283 86329
- 3. 43277 4833
- 4. 84399 368
- 5. 43472 66464
- 6. 738325
- 7. 46243 23
- 8. AMERICA
- 9. UNITED KINGDOM
- 10. AUSTRALIA