

American Academy

GRID CIPHER

A good way to confuse your enemy is to use numbers instead of letters in your secret message. Unless you have the key to the code, there's no way to solve it.

Try decoding this message:

21 41 44 14 31 14 44 23 11 15 21 44 14 31

ACROSS →

DOWN ↓

	1	2	3	4	5
1	I	Q	G	C	S
2	B	J	T	U	N
3	K	E	P	H	X
4	L	V	W	A	R
5	D	M	O	Y	F

The trick of it:

The letters of the alphabet are arranged in a 5 x 5 grid. You use a pair of numbers to represent each letter. First write the "down" column number that corresponds to the letter you want, and then write the "across" number next to it. So, with this grid, A is 44, B is 21, C is 14, and so on.

Note: since Z is rarely used, you can leave it out of the grid. If you really want to include it, add it to the box with Y; then the spy who receives your message will just have to figure out which letter you're using.

Tip: To make it even harder to break the code, take the spaces out between your numbers.

