

American Academy

THE PIGPEN CIPHER

Pigpen is a very cool code, because it looks more like a series of geometric shapes than letters. To the eyes of the uninitiated, it is strange and indecipherable.

Try decoding this message:

⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈
⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈ ⋈

The trick of it:

Believe it or not, writing in pigpen is fun and easy, once you get the hang of it. The cipher is based on the grid for tic-tac-toe, plus an extra X for the letters S-Z. Each letter is represented by the shape of the "pigpen" that surrounds it. If the letter you need is the second letter listed in the pigpen area, then you use a dot in addition to the shape to represent it.

AB	CD	EF	X UV ST WX YZ
GH	IJ	KL	
MN	OP	QR	

For example,

A looks like this:



B like this:



V like this:



Y like this:

