



# Newspaper Codes

A newspaper is a great way to send a secret message. Newspapers are always easy to find, and no one will suspect anything when you're reading it.

And if you're carrying a newspaper around, nobody will suspect that it contains a secret message!

All you need is a newspaper and a pin.



## Equipment

1. A newspaper. Carrying a copy of today's newspaper around will attract less attention than carrying around one that's a day or a week old. (After all, who reads out-of-date newspapers?)
2. A pin.

## Safety Stuff

Becoming a secret agent can be fun, but check with an adult before you begin these projects as you might need their help. Working with items such as scissors can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them, and make sure that you never leave them open or lying around where smaller children can reach them.

Before starting, cover the work surface with newspaper or an old cloth and make sure that you are wearing an apron or some old clothes.

Gather together all the items you'll need before you begin. You can probably find most of what you need simply by hunting around the house, but remember to check with an adult before you take anything. After all, you don't want to be an unpopular secret agent!

# Steps

## Step One

Pick one of the numbers in the date on the front page of the newspaper. Use the pin to pierce a small hole above the number you've chosen. This will tell your secret agent partner which page of the newspaper the message will be on.

Go to that page in the newspaper. Use the pin to prick holes above the letters that spell out your message. Do this in the right order down the page. When you come to the end of a word in your message, put a hole in the next space between words in the newspaper. This will help your partner to read the message quickly.



## Step Two

When you've written your message, fold the newspaper back up, tuck it under your arm and deliver it to your secret agent partner. Don't give it to them directly though! Always leave it in a prearranged place or send it via someone else. No one will find anything in the paper, but there's no point in arousing suspicion unnecessarily. Good spies are careful spies!

A quick hint: to read the message more easily, your secret agent partner can simply hold up the correct page to the light. They'll see the holes and be able to read your message quickly.



## Other Suggestions

If nobody suspects that your newspaper contains a secret message, then your secrets are probably quite safe!

But what if somebody finds out, and looks carefully at the newspaper for signs of a message. They might find the pinholes and discover what you've written. Can you think of some ways of making your message more secure?

You could, for example, put some extra, bogus pinhole messages on other pages to confuse the reader. Or you could add a written message using invisible ink.

Can you think of other ways of making your message more secure?