

# How to Solve Letter Shifting Problems in Coding Decoding

In this lesson, we will deal with how to solve Letter Shifting Problems in Coding Decoding. Coding and Decoding based on Letter Shifting is a type of question which is generally asked in Banking Exams like SBI Clerk, IBPS PO, IBPS RRB, Insurance exams like LIC AAO as well as other government recruitment exams like Railways NTPC and SSC CGL. Since these questions are very easy to answer, you should not leave these questions unattempted.

In Letter Shifting Problems in Coding-Decoding, we just need to find the relationship between one pair of words. From this we will get the key to the code. We need to use these codes to apply it to the question.

Let us understand this better with an example.

If in a certain code SENSITIVE is written as UAPOKPKRG, then how will HYDROGEN be written in the same code?

⇒ First we need to find the relationship between SENSITIVE and UAPOKPKRG.

Check relationship of the first letter of the first word and the first letter of the second word i.e. we compare 'S' with 'U'. 'U' is two letters after 'S' in the alphabet (ABCD... XYZ). So, we can represent this as,

S  
↓  
U  
+2

Similarly check the relationship of E and A. 'E' is 4 letters after 'A'. So we can represent this as,

E  
↓  
A  
-4

Similarly, checking for each letter like this we get the final relation as follows.

S	E	N	S	I	T	I	V	E
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
U	A	P	O	K	P	K	R	G
+2	-4	+2	-4	+2	-4	+2	-4	+2

So the relation was a pattern of alternate +2 and -4. Now we need to apply this pattern to HYDROGEN, so we get,

H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
J	U	F	N	Q	C	G	J
+2	-4	+2	-4	+2	-4	+2	-4

Hence the code for HYDROGEN will be JUFNQCGJ.

### Pro-Tip 1:

These options are best solved using the options in the given questions to give you an idea. Do

not spend too much time trying to solve the code without first looking at the options. Keep comparing your code with the options with each letter. Sometimes you don't even need to solve the entire problem; the correct answer becomes visible within the first few letters. These types of problems should not take up too much of your time in the paper.

## Types of Letter Shifting Problems in Coding Decoding

There are three types of letter shifting problems in Coding Decoding -

1. We have seen the first type where the first letter of the first word is coded as the first letter of the second (coded) word, the second letter of the first word is coded as the second letter of the second word, the third with the third and so on.
2. The second type is instead of shifting each letter, letters are moved within the word like REASONING is coded as ASREONGNI.



3. In the third type letters are shifted in the alphabet as well as their positions in the word are moved, such as CHEMISTRY is coded as, HIEPHKBSV.



So we need to realize which type of letter shifting problem it is, and then find the pattern used and finally apply the same pattern on the required word.

### Pro-Tip 2:

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If you find yourself confused about which letter is mapped to which coded letter, try to find letters close to the given letter. Like in the above example, from “C”, it is closer to “E” than to “H” or “I”. It is also close to “B”. So we should check both cases, where, “C” is mapped to “E” and where “C” is mapped to “B”. Make separate diagrams for both. Eliminate the one that doesn’t work. Then proceed with the one that does. In case, the closer letters don’t work, try to see if the other letters form any code.

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