# Cryptography Worksheet — Letter Frequencies

Choose a page of your reading book.

Count a hundred letters.

Make a frequency table for the letters.

Put the results of the whole class into a spreadsheet.

Calculate the mean frequency for each letter, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Which is the most common letter used in your sample?

Which are the next 4 most common letters?

Which letters occur most rarely?

Compare your results with the scrabble frequencies.

Comment on any differences you find.

# Teacher's Notes — Letter Frequencies

This is a nice introduction activity to frequency analysis for the lower ability pupils, but is probably not very interesting to those higher ability.

They should hopefully get something along the lines of the results shown below.

| Alphabet | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | j | k | l | m | n | o | p | q | r | s | t | u | v | w | x | y | z |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| % in normal English usage | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |