

Secret Agent Mission

The Headquarters Code: a complete code-cracking mission. Print, cut and play: no app, no account, nothing to buy.


30–40 min

party time

6–10

best ages

2–12

agents

2–4

per team

THE MISSION

Headquarters has sent a coded message about where the birthday celebration begins. Work as a team to crack the code, then report your answer to the host.

YOU NEED

- This printable (badges, one mission card per team, hint tokens, certificates)
- Pencils
- One envelope for the certificates
- Tape or a sticker label for each badge
- Optional: a rubber stamp or stickers for the badge stamps

BEFORE THE PARTY

1. Print the badges, one mission card per team, the hint tokens and the certificates (12 agents in 4 teams: 2 badge pages, 4 mission cards, 1 token page, 6 certificate pages). Keep the answer card yourself.
2. Write each agent's name on a certificate, put them in the envelope and place it face down at the cake table, under a napkin.
3. Cut out the badges and hint tokens. Set out pencils at a badge station.

Print on US Letter paper at 100% or Actual Size; cardstock makes sturdier badges. Cut on the dashed lines.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Badges

10 min

Each agent writes a first name or an invented agent name and checks one role box.

2. Briefing

5 min

Read the mission story aloud. Give each team a mission card and one hint token. Stamp "Briefing".

3. Crack the code

10–15 min

Teams match each symbol to the key and write the letter in the box below it. Stamp "Code" when a team has every letter.

4. Report

5 min

The Messenger whispers the answer to the host. Not quite? The host names the word to check again.

5. Mission complete

5 min

When every team has reported, all agents open the envelope at the cake table together. Stamp "Mission".

HINT TOKEN

Each team may trade its hint token once: the team chooses the first, second, third or fourth word, and the host says that word.

KEEP IT SAFE

- No real secrets: never ask agents for passwords, addresses, school names, photographs or private family facts.
- Badges: tape them on, use a sticker label, or keep them in a team folder. Do not use long cords or lanyards for young children.
- The answer leads to the cake table, a supervised party station. Keep every mission inside the party area.

Agent Badges

Cut out one badge per agent: no long cords. The host stamps a circle after each part of the mission.

**AGENT BADGE**
Birthday Mission Agent

AGENT NAME (FIRST NAME OR AN INVENTED ONE)

CHECK ONE ROLE

☐ Decoder ☐ Mapper ☐ Observer ☐ Messenger


BRIEFING


CODE


MISSION

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Birthday Mission Agent

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BRIEFING


CODE


MISSION

Mission: The Headquarters Code

One card per team. Read it aloud, then crack the code together.



- 1 Find each symbol in the key below.
- 2 The Mapper writes its letter in the box under the symbol.
- 3 Write the answer below. The Messenger whispers it to the host.

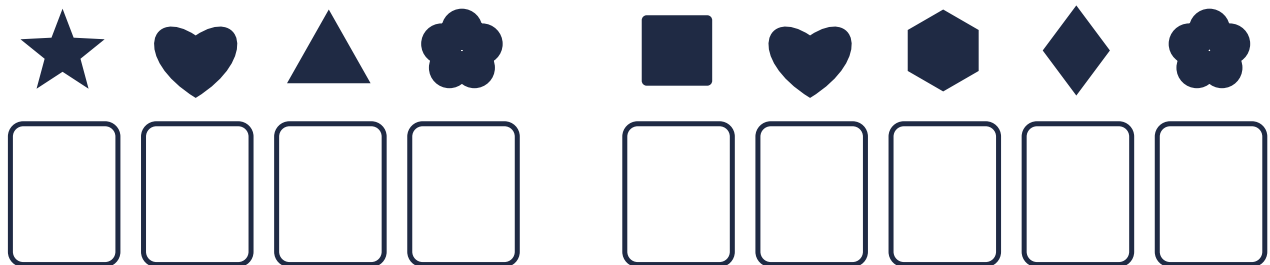
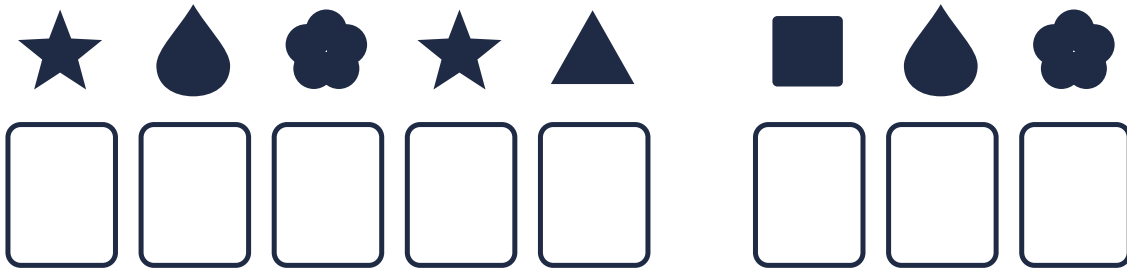
Roles: Decoder reads the key aloud. Mapper holds this card and writes the letters. Observer checks every symbol twice. Messenger whispers the answer to the host. Fewer than four agents? Share the roles.

Stuck? Trade your hint token once: the team chooses the first, second, third or fourth word, and the host says that word.

SYMBOL KEY

 flower E	 triangle K	 square T	 star C	 diamond L	 heart A	 raindrop H	 hexagon B
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THE CODED MESSAGE



OUR ANSWER

Wait for the host's signal before anyone goes there.

Team name (optional):

Host Answer Card + Hint Tokens

Cut on the dashed line. Keep the answer card away from agents; give each team one hint token.

HOST ANSWER CARD • FOR THE HOST ONLY



CHECK THE CAKE TABLE



- Correct: the four words CHECK THE CAKE TABLE, in any letter case or spacing.
- Not quite? Say which word is wrong and let the team check those symbols again.
- Hint token: the team picks a word (first, second, third or fourth) and you read it out, for example the third: "CAKE".
- When every team has reported, everyone opens the envelope at the cake table together.

BRIEFING SCRIPT • READ ALOUD

"Agents, Headquarters has sent us a coded message. It tells us where the birthday celebration begins. Work with your team: find each symbol in the key and write its letter in the box. When every box is full, your Messenger whispers the answer to me. Good luck, agents!"

HINT TOKENS • ONE PER TEAM



HINT TOKEN

Trade it once: pick a word (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) and the host reads it out.



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CERTIFICATE OF AGENT EXCELLENCE

Mission Complete



Agent _____

cracked The Headquarters Code and completed the mission with the whole team.

HEADQUARTERS

APPROVED

CERTIFICATE OF AGENT EXCELLENCE

Mission Complete



Agent _____

cracked The Headquarters Code and completed the mission with the whole team.

HEADQUARTERS

APPROVED