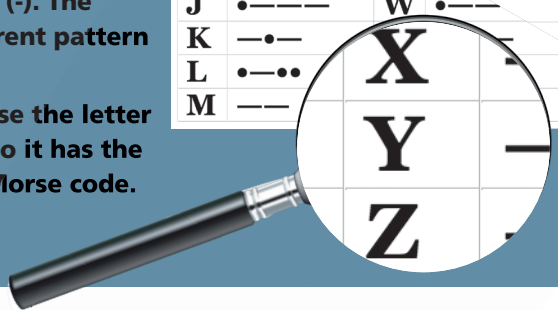# CODES

When Tintin sends a radio message from the *Karaboudjan*, he uses Morse code. This is a way of sending messages using short sounds (.) and long sounds (-). The sender uses a different pattern for every letter.

In English people use the letter *e* most often, and so it has the shortest sound in Morse code.

A	•—	N	—•
B	—•••	O	———
C	—•—•	P	•——•
D	—••	Q	——•—
E	•	R	•—•
F	••—•	S	•••
G	——•	T	—
H	••••	U	••—
I	••	V	•••—
J	•———	W	•——
K	—•—		
L	•—••		
M	——		

X

Y

Z

MAKING CODES

Morse code isn't secret but many codes are. People first used codes to send secret messages a long time ago. Julius Caesar (100 – 44 BC) did not want his enemies to read his messages, and so he used a special code. In this code, he moved the letters by three places so the letter A is D, B is E, C is F ...

Can you read this message in Caesar code?

WKH DGYHQWXUHV RI WLQWLQ

Caesar codes are usually quite easy to break. You can test this: make a new Caesar code by moving the letters a different number of places. Write a message in the new code and give it to your friend. Can he or she break the code?
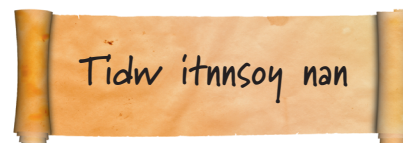
MORE DIFFICULT CODES

Over the years, people used more and more difficult codes to send secret messages. In one code the sender writes the message in a special pattern. For example, you write the message TINTIN AND SNOWY like this:

T			I			D			W	
	I		T		N		N		S		O		Y
		N				A				N		

The sender then reads across the lines to write the message, like this.

Tidw itnnsoy nan

Write a message in code using this pattern. Can your friends break the code?

THE ENIGMA CODES

During World War II, the Germans made very difficult codes with the *Enigma machine*. For years the British tried to break the Enigma codes. At last they were lucky – some British soldiers found one of the German Enigma machines. With this the British could break the Enigma code and read messages in it.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
code   pattern   secret
enemy   break   soldier