**Date Shift Cipher**

One other way to send a secret message is the date shift cipher. First, pick a date, any date. I'll use Steven Spielberg's birthday: December 18, 1946. Next I'll write out that date using numbers and slash marks: 12/18/46. Finally, I will get rid of the slashes, leaving me with a six-digit number that I will use to encipher my message: 121846. (For the first nine months of the year, simply put a zero before the number of that month, making January 01, February 02, and so on. You can do the same thing for the first nine days of the month.) For a message, let's use I ENJOY THE MOVIES OF STEVEN SPIELBERG. Under the message I will write my six-digit number over and over until I come to the end:

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I ENJOY THE MOVIES OF STEVEN SPIELBERG
1 21846 1 2 1 8 4 6 1 2 8 4 6 1 2 1 8 4 6 1 2
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To help you encipher this message, write out the alphabet from left to right. Now shift each letter of the plaintext by the number of spaces indicated by the number below it. The letter I shifts one space, making it J; E shifts two spaces, making it G; and so on until you have finished enciphering. Note that Y shifts 6 spaces, causing you to wrap around back to the beginning of the alphabet, landing at E. Your final message would be

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J GORSE UJJ USBJGT WJ YUGWMR YQKFTFKSI.
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