

# B-52 (answer)

by Peter Sarrett

This puzzle is a twist on the Equation Analysis Test, a widely-copied puzzle form invented by Will Shortz in GAMES Magazine in 1981. Both halves of the puzzle are encrypted. The left half are straightforward equations, many with highly suggestive numbers to get you going.

The completed, decrypted equations are:

- 1.21 = Gigawatts of Electricity needed to Time Travel in a Delorean
- 2 = Scoops of Raisins in a Package of Kellogg's Raisin Bran
- 2 = All Beef Patties in a Big Mac
- 3 = Times to Knock on the Ceiling if You Want Me, According to Tony Orlando and Dawn
- 4 = Time Zones in the Continental United States
- 8 = Planets in the Solar System (Not Including Pluto)
- 9 = Justices on the Supreme Court
- 26 = Cases on *Deal or No Deal*
- 30 = Questions (or more accurately, Answers) on a *Jeopardy!* Board
- 31 = Flavors at Baskin Robbins
- 33 1/3 = Rotations Per Minute of a Long Play Record
- 42 = Ultimate Answer of Life, the Universe, and Everything
- 50 = Ways to Leave Your Lover, According to Paul Simon
- 99 = Bottles of Beer on the Wall
- 250 = Dollars needed to Buy a Vowel on *Wheel of Fortune*
- 300 = Spartans at the Battle of Thermopylea
- 451 = Degrees Fahrenheit at which Paper Burns

This yields the following cipherkey:

Ciphertext: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Plaintext: ICONSMAKELTRZBDFGHJPQUVWXY

The cipherkey contains a hint to part 2—"ICONS MAKE LTRZ", as well as being structured so that remaining letters appear in alphabetical order, providing an additional solving aid for part 1 for astute solvers.

As suggested by the cipherkey, the equations in part 2 work a little differently—here you're solving for letters instead of numbers. And of course, you'll need to decrypt the equations using the cipherkey you generated in part 1. The decrypted and solved equations become:

C = for Cookie, and that's Good Enough for Me

H = Chemical Symbol for First Element on Periodic Table

I = Square Root of Negative One

B = Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy's Company  
N = Topmost Direction on a Compass Rose  
D = Grade just above Failing in School  
M = Superior Officer of James Bond  
J = Agent Played by Will Smith in Men in Black  
P = One Hundredth of a British Pound Sterling  
S = Letter on Superman's Chest  
I = One in Roman Numerals  
T = Model of Ford Automobile also called the Tin Lizzie  
J = Slang for Cigarette made with Marijuana  
I = First Person Singular Pronoun  
Q = Character in the *Star Trek* Universe Played by John de Lancie  
O = Cirque du Soleil Show at the Bellagio in Las Vegas  
S = Curve with Two Bends, as in Renton, Washington

The answers, CHIBNDMJPSITJIQOS, are gibberish until you decrypt them using the same cipherkey to get BRAND OF STEAK SAUCE. The only appropriate brand for this puzzle is the final answer: **A-1**.