dix dr tzx kxcqdiq rdk xihpszxkpib tzpq txgt pq td

one of the reasons for enciphering this text is to

qzdm tzx kxcjxk zdm xcqpvn tzpq tnsx dr hpszxk hci

show the reader how easily this type of cipher can

lx lkduxi tzx mdkj qtkfhtfkx dr tzx svcpitxgt zcq lxxi

be broken the word structure of the plaintext has been

skxqxkwxj td ocux tzx xgxkhpqx xcqpxk pr mx zcj

preserved to make the exercise easier if we had

mkpttxi tzx hknstdbkco pi bdkfsq dr rpwx vxttxkq

written the cryptogram in groups of five letters

tzxi pt mdfvj zcwx lxxi zckjxk td hdiwpihx

then it would have been harder to convince

ndfkqxvwxq dr tzpq scpkq dr kxcjxkq hci skdwpjx

yourselves of this pairs of readers can provide

xchz dtzxk mptz hknstdbkcoq mptz tzpq vxttxk

each other with cryptograms with this letter

bkdfspib

grouping

Frequency distribution for this exercise:

a	0	n	5
b	6	o	3
c	17	p	23
d	25	q	21
e	0	r	9
f	6	s	11
g	3	t	33
h	11	u	2
i	16	v	6
j	8	w	6
k	31	x	51
l	4	y	0
m	8	z	23

Note to teachers: In this short explanation, the ciphertext letter is written in lower case and black, and the plaintext letter is written in upper case and red. For students, I would expect something like this to be the VERY LEAST they do in terms of an explanation.

x is the most common by far, so x=E. tzx is a common three-letter word (guess "the"), so t=T (yes, the ciphertext t and the plaintext T correspond to each other, and that's OK) and z=H. td is a common two-letter word (guess "to"), so d=O. in line 8, dtzxk=OTHE_, so k=R. dr is a common two-letter word, and we know d=O, so dr could be OF or OR, but since we know k=R, then r=F. In line 4, pr is used, and in line 6, pt is used. The only letter that fits is p=I. tzpq appears a few times, and tzpq=THI_, so q=S. In line 1, dix=O_E, and in line 6, tzxi=THE_, so these imply that i=N. In line 1, kxcqdiq=RE_SONS, so c=A. In line 2, hpszxk=_I_HER and also in line 2, hci=_AN, so guess that h=C and s=P. Now, in line 1, b=G falls into place, as does g=X. In line 2, m=W and j=D. The rest is pretty trivial, as it's easy to see that m=W, j=D, v=L, n=Y, l=B, u=K, f=U, w=V and o=M. There are three letters (a, e and y) that do not appear in the ciphertext, and they correspond to J, Q and Z (in any order, I suppose) in plaintext.