

PHONE MESSAGES

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The rotary telephone dial provides a one-to-three correspondence between the integers 2 through 9 inclusive and twenty-four of the letters of the English alphabet:

2 → A, B, C	6 → M, N, O
3 → D, E, F	7 → P, R, S
4 → G, H, I	8 → T, U, V
5 → J, K, L	9 → W, X, Y .

With this in mind, the addition example

$$6477+683338+35337+3278+3766+8447+8469+25225 = 774337$$

can be decoded to read

$$\text{MISS+MUFFET+FLEES+FAST+FROM+THIS+TINY+BLACK} = \text{SPIDER.}$$

Eight other examples follow, each aptly titled to provide a hint for the hidden phone message contained therein. How many can you decipher?

1. CONFUCIUS SAY

$$663 + 4843 + 625 + 4769 + 688 + 3766 + 6659 + 663 = 22676$$

2. SEVEN YEAR SENTENCE

$$255 + 223 + 5825 + 629 + 365569 + 843 + 663 + 946 + 288 + \\ 272257 + 269 = 647767$$

3. INDIVISIBLE

$$2 + 77463 + 66. + 8447 + 3637 + 668 + 4283 + 269 + 68437 + \\ 322867 + 288 + 663 + 263 = 487353$$

4. NEW TWIST TO AN OLD TWISTER

$$9436 + 653 + 7383 + 7297 + 46 + 7425 + 2 + 7325 + 63 + \\ 7377377, + 8436 + 43 + 47 = 7425533$$

5. HEAVENLY POETRY

$$43 + 86329 + 93 + 5669 + 22688 + 728876'7 + 74647, + 255 + \\ 842657 + 86 + 3456 + 8428 + 2 + 77223 + 7447 + 274647 = 8692437$$

6. ANNUAL CONFRONTATION

843 + 896 + 2378 + 83267 + 63 + 843 + 4263, + 663 + 3766 +
3224 + 244 + 532483, + 438 + 86 + 6338 + 46 + 843 + 96753 = 737437

7. EVICITION NOTICE

843 + 287733 + 27753 + 63 + 26 + 277 + 927 + 843 + 22873 +
367 + 687 + 4663 + 5673 + 86 + 67337 + 2326 + 263 +
383 + 3766 + 447 = 427336

8. FEDERAL CASES

843 + 3687 + 9327 + 26374226 + 35328466 + 7762377 +
23367333 + 87 + 9484 + 896 + 773743368 + 7667383587, +
896 + 427747667, + 896 + 56467667, + 896 + 2326737, + 3836 +
2 + 253835263 + 89423, + 938 + 423 + 5878 + 663 = 9274464866

Written and drawn by Jed Martinez

