

Solution to Shifty Characters

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Sherlock Holmes is on a case, and he just found a clue left for him by one of his many informants. It looks like the informant was having problems using his new typewriter. Or was he? Homes takes a closer look and gets the key information that leads him to the culprit.

Q7t &W% e*E *h f#h 55 Y*w qo53 \$ HQ% *f 3 %9! 2 #4%^

The title of the puzzle clues to the fact that shift is important. If you replace characters that were typed while the shift key was pressed with '-' and characters that were typed while the shift key was not pressed with '.' you get:

-.. --- .-- -. --- - --- -. . -.- . ----

When you translate that Morse code you get:

down right one key

You then retype the original message, but shift your hands down and right one key from where they started:

aug ust did in ven tt his alte r nat iv e toq w erty

After you rearrange the spaces, this will form the phrase "August did invent this alternative to qwerty" which leads you to the answer to the puzzle: **DVORAK**.