

P4: End Of The First Day

The colors of each column are supposed to correspond to a business card which corresponds to a 3 letter answer for the puzzle that card was handed out with. Thus, for the first column, you need to use letters from the word ICE. For the second column, use letters from the word YEN. For the third column, use letters from the word ART.

<p>DEITIES ACCEPTED CAREER SEER BASIC WEPT PIECE EITHER ACE WHISK</p>	<p>NIT GYPSY DYSENTERY NOON POLYSTYRENE NEEDING MYSTERY ANYONE TYRANNY NINE</p>	<p>LAVA AFLOAT ATTACH TORRENT MARRY TRAM ARTERY FATAL REGULARS CLATTER</p>
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If you look at the back of the business cards, there are words. They seem to line up with the letters inside the cards. Thus,

PUZZLE = A
IS = I

THE = C
ANSWER = D

ULTIMATE = K
TO = A
FOUR = C

The way to make sense of this is to assign ternary values to each word based on the number of letters from the corresponding keyword. For example, we see then that in ULTIMATE, the keyword is ART and there are an A and 2 T's in ULTIMATE, so the ternary value of ULTIMATE is 102 which equates to 11 or K according the code sheet. The other words all follow this pattern. (Note that you can do this using math instead of code sheet too, but for this guide, we'll keep it simple with the code sheet.)

Using this knowledge, we can find values for each of the words we filled in in the upper table:

<p>DEITIES=202=20=T ACCEPTED=022=8=H CAREER=012=5=E SEER=002=2=B BASIC=110=12=L WEPT=001=A PIECE=112=14=N EITHER=102=11=K ACE=011=4=D WHISK=100=I</p>	<p>NIT=001=A GYPSY=200=18=R DYSENTERY=221=25=Y NOON=002=B POLYSTYRENE=221=25=Y NEEDING=022=H MYSTERY=210=21=U ANYONE=112=14=N TYRANNY=202=20=T NINE=012=5=E</p>	<p>LAVA=200=18=R AFLOAT=201=19=S ATTACH=202=20=T TORRENT=022=8=H MARRY=120=15=O TRAM=111=13=M ARTERY=121=16=P FATAL=201=S REGULARS=120=15=O CLATTER=112=14=N</p>
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This spells out THE BLANK DIARY BY HUNTER S THOMPSON. This is a reference to the RUM Diary, a book by Hunter S. Thompson. So for our fourth 3-letter word, we have the word RUM. From the back of the fourth card, we have _ _ _ _ _ = Z which is 26. 26 is 222 in ternary, so we must use each of the letters in RUM twice. The only word that fits this is the word **MURMUR**.