

Elite Components

Today's special: standing rib roasts.

1349 1541 4757 142 22 9 671 1817 142 1081 989 4757 3337 74 3589 407 781

(jump down for solution)

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Elite Components Solution

Answer: FLORIDA

The puzzle text mentions these things called standing rib roasts? What are those? The Wikipedia article says of them, "A colloquial and popular term for this cut is 'prime rib'". This statement and a list of numbers is meant to clue that prime factoring is involved.

You'll notice there are two prime numbers which can be factored from each "plate" number:

```
1349 1541 4757 142 22 9 671 1817 142 1081 989 4757 3337 74 3589 407 781
71x19 23x67 67x71 2x71 11x2 3x3 61x11 79x23 2x71 23x47 43x23 67x71 47x71 2x37 37x97 37x11 11x71
```

But then what do you do with these numbers? Well, hopefully players notice that all these prime numbers don't go above 101, the 26th prime number (or rather, they don't go above 97 but whatever). Matching the first 26 primes to the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet gives you a cipher:

```
A B C D E F G H I J K L M
2 3 5 7 11 13 17 19 23 29 31 37 41

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
43 47 53 59 61 67 71 73 79 83 89 97 101
```

And ciphers should be applied to puzzles, of course:

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1349 1541 4757 142 22 9 671 1817 142 1081 989 4757 3337 74 3589 407 781
71x19 23x67 67x71 2x71 11x2 3x3 61x11 79x23 2x71 23x47 43x23 67x71 47x71 2x37 37x97 37x11 11x71
TxH IxS SxT AxT ExA BxB RxE VxI AxT IxO NxI SxT OxT AxL LxY LxE ExT
TH IS ST AT EA BB RE VI AT IO NI ST OT AL LY LE ET.
"This state abbreviation is totally leet."
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"This state abbreviation is totally leet." Leet? What does that mean? If the players don't understand, the first Google hit for "leet" (its Wiki) should make it clear that "leet" comes from "leetspeak" and is slang for "eleet/elite" and often written "1337".

So... some state abbreviation (which are two letters long) is 1337... 13 37... F L from the cipher...

FL = FLORIDA

Fun Fact: I chose Florida because the word doesn't repeat letters. I chose the title "Elite Components" as a word-by-word synonym for "Prime Factors". It was just coincidence that Florida = FL = 1337 = Elite.