

Once the DNA double helix had been discovered, the next big challenge was to work out how the four letters of DNA could code for each of the 20 amino acids that make protein. The first question was how many DNA letters coded for each amino acid? If it was one DNA letter for one amino acid, then you could only code for a maximum of four amino acids. Two letters in every possible combination could code for up to 16 amino acids. Still not enough. But three DNA letters provide more than enough to code for all 20 amino acids. So three was the answer. It was a triplet code.