Quiz 4

Problem 1
This problem deals with the $100,000 Decipher Puzzle, as discussed during Wednesday's class. Specifically, this question deals with the problem of checking if a candidate plaintext appears to be a valid English message, where the candidate plaintext was produced by decrypting the ciphertext using a candidate keytext.

a) One contestant who solved the puzzle said that she recognized valid English messages solely by accepting any candidate plaintext that had sufficiently many E's. Explain why this strategy should not have worked for the Decipher Puzzle.

b) Explain why this strategy did work.