

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS: CLUE TYPES and INDICATORS

CLUE TYPE	HOW INDICATED
<p>1 Anagrams: a mixture of some letters Example: <i>Wild West food (4)</i></p>	<p>Look for word(s) showing a changed state eg <i>scrambled, mixed, drunk, mad, hit, out, off, mobile.</i></p>
<p>2 Sandwich: one part fitted inside another Example: <i>Bovine has eaten everything green (6)</i></p>	<p>Look for such as <i>holds, grips, swallows, boxes, keeping, harbours</i></p>
<p>3 Additive: solution from 2 or more parts Example: <i>A pop-group on leave (7)</i></p>	<p>Normally obvious such as <i>and</i> or <i>joins</i> or there may be no indication: sentence runs on with no linking word(s) as in example</p>
<p>4 Hidden: solution within the sentence hidden Example: <i>Lover of birds imprisoned in Alcatraz (3)</i></p>	<p>Look for signals such as <i>some of, caught in, part of, housed by</i></p>
<p>5 Two definitions: 2 (or even more straight(ish) definitions Example: <i>Trim a tree (6)</i> <i>A lighter shove (5)</i></p>	<p>Look for short clues, maybe 2 words only May be joined by <i>and</i> or <i>is</i> or by " 's "</p>
<p>6 Homophone: secondary indication is given by sound of the first. Example: <i>Leather moved from side to side by the sound of it (5)</i></p>	<p>Look for <i>we hear, by the sound of it, so it's said, what sounds like, reportedly</i></p>
<p>7 Takeaway: take some letter(s) off Example: <i>Teacher with a tailless bunny (5)</i></p>	<p>Look for any sort of removing indication eg <i>deduction, cast, shed, cut, short</i></p>
<p>8 Reversal: reverse some letter(s) Example: <i>Have a look around part of the fortifications (4)</i></p>	<p>Look for <i>back, recalling</i> in an across clue or <i>up, mounted</i> in a down clue</p>
<p>9 & Lit: = and literally is the solution Example: <i>I'm one involved with cost (9)</i> & Lit anagram <i>Part of it 'it an iceberg (7)</i> & Lit hidden</p>	<p>Often contains <i>one, I</i> or <i>it</i> Look for <i>back</i> in an across clue or <i>up</i> in a down clue</p>
<p>10 Cryptic definition: only one indication of the solution ie no secondary indication Examples: <i>Mug presented at christening? (4-4)</i> <i>014? (6,5)</i></p>	<p>Think laterally. Often an allusion is made to solution with very misleading word(s) and ends with a ?</p> <p>NB Two or more of these clue types can be combined in a single clue</p>