

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS: CLUE TYPES and INDICATORS

Examples are in Italics

<u>CLUE TYPE</u>	<u>WHAT TO LOOK FOR</u>
1 Anagrams: a mixture of some letters <i>Wild West food (4)</i>	Words showing a changed state eg <i>scrambled, mixed, drunk, mad, hit</i>
2 Sandwich: one part fitted inside another <i>Bovine has eaten everything green (6)</i>	Words such as <i>holds, grips, swallows, boxes, keeping, harbours, inside, entering</i>
3 Homonym: secondary indication is given by sound of the first. <i>Leather moved from side to side by the sound of it (5)</i>	Words such as <i>we hear, by the sound of it, so it's said, what sounds like, reportedly</i>
4 Hidden: solution within the sentence hidden <i>Lover of birds imprisoned in Alcatraz (3)</i>	Words such as <i>some of, caught in, part of, housed by</i>
5 Reversal: reverse some letter(s) <i>Huge flans all round, that's the plan (9)</i>	Look for <i>back, recalling</i> in an across clue or <i>up, mounted</i> in a down clue
6 Takeaway: take some letter(s) off <i>Religious teacher with tailless bunny (5)</i>	Look for any sort of removing indication eg <i>deduction, cast, shed, cut, short</i>
7 Letter Switch: <i>Desire to work second shift in T-shirt (6)</i>	Look for words meaning move or exchange, swap
8 All-in-One (or & Lit): definition & wordplay are the same <i>Part of it 'it an iceberg (7)</i>	Often contains <i>one, I or it</i> Look for <i>back</i> in an across clue or <i>up</i> in a down clue
9 Additive: 2 or more parts alongside each other <i>A pop-group on leave (7)</i>	No indicator often; sentence runs on with or without linking word(s)
10 Two definitions: 2 (or even more straight(ish) definitions <i>Trim a tree (6)</i>	Look for short clues, maybe 2 words only. Words may be joined by <i>and</i> or <i>is</i>
11 Cryptic definition: only one indication of the solution ie no secondary indication <i>Mug presented at christening? (4-4)</i>	Think laterally. Often an allusion is made to solution with very misleading word(s) and ending with a ?
12 Novelty Clue: "off-the-wall" <i>HIJKLMNO (5)</i>	Think laterally
	Important Note: <i>Two or more of these clue types can be combined in a single clue</i>

