

If you see a clue that ...	Such as ...	It might indicate ...
suggests <i>mixing, strangeness, change, moving, performing or poor condition</i>	about ¹ , in a muddle, aimless, eccentric, fractured, wild, drunk, repair, change, mixed, bad, new, upset, affected, punk, breaking down, composed of, in a salad? (tossed), with license, in rough, prostitute, fluid, here and there, somehow, ground, model ² , fancy, after a struggle, resorts, police(d), mythic, conversion, convertible, work(ed/ing)	an <i>Anagram</i>
suggests <i>reversing course</i>	about ¹ , going the wrong way, back ³ , in retirement, counter v.: return, recede, flip, turn, pivot, wheel ⁴ , crawfish, swivel (Across) left, in the mirror, westward (Down) up, rising, to the North, bottoms-up, upside-down, overturned, over	a <i>Reversal</i>
suggests <i>hearing or pronouncing</i>	reportedly, in recital, to the audience, orally, by the sound, in mouth, for the auditor, reporter's, speaker's, professor's, retailer's v.: hear, say ⁵ , utter, voice, quote, dictate, attend, broadcast ⁶	a <i>Homophone</i> or <i>Oronym</i>
suggests <i>removal, lack or incompleteness⁷</i>	except for head/heart/tail, -less, mostly, shy syns. { head ^{8,9} = introduction to, top, prow, first, greatest, start, leader, piece ¹⁰ / capital / chief / bit (of) ¹⁰ , (de)face ¹¹ , originally ¹² , largely centre ¹³ = heart ¹³ , stripped, inside of, empty tail = end, finish ¹⁴ , at the back head & tail = edges, borders, peel(ed), coat, extreme(ly), outside of practically, unfinished, curtain, unclosed, is reduced, between terminals, nearly, leaves, almost, endlessly specific { without (e.g. 'without fail' means delete F), letter(s) leaves, edited out, missing	a <i>Deletion</i>
suggests <i>containment,¹⁵ concealment, selection from¹⁶ or contribution to</i>	in ¹⁷ , within, without, goes around, somewhat, outside(?) v.: host ¹⁸ , grip, hold, fill, wrap, wear, surround, clutch, interrupt, contain, arrest, describe, tenants, swallow, parting, pocket in ¹⁷ , feature, element, some ¹⁹ , a little / part (of), among, going through, sitting in, for a stretch, from v.: host ¹⁸ , hide, hold, line, incorporate, catch, bury, house, show, display, provide, take, stock, cross ²⁰ , contribute, bridge, check, maintain, helps... make	a <i>Container</i> a <i>Hidden Answer</i>
is short		a <i>Second Definition</i>
uses one of ... or is none of the above	after, before, with, gains, beside, by, to	a <i>Charade</i>
ends with !		an <i>& Lit.</i>

¹'About' can = ON, RE, &C. (see p. 2) as well as indicating an anagram, a reversal, a container or hidden answer; 'Out' can = ALIBI.

²Model can = T, EPITOME or a specific person.

³'Back' can indicate reversal, deletion, part of a charade, and also = STERN OF REAR.

⁴'Wheel' can = O (see **Bits and Pieces**, on p. 3).

⁵But 'say' can also = FOR EXAMPLE.

⁶'Broadcast' can indicate an anagram, a homophone, or = ON AIR or perhaps SOWN.

⁷Distinguishing incompleteness from selection — which may signal a container or hidden answer — can be tricky.

⁸'Ultimately', 'initially', 'from the beginning', 'after the debut', &c. can suggest acronym, initialism, or telestitch (see n. 16).

⁹'Pair of' can mean first two letters (also 'pair' can = PR); 'Couple' can = WED.

¹⁰But 'piece' can = GUN, 'piece of cereal' = OAT, 'bit of hype' = AD, and 'part of an ear' = COB. See also n. 16.

¹¹But 'on the face' can be part of a charade, e.g. *Roguish friend with nasty scar on the face* (8) ⇒ RASC+ALLY (FS in G&M*, 14 Mar 2009, #24A).

¹²'Originally' could suggest either the start (first letter), change (an anagram) or NÉE.

¹³But 'centre of church' = NAVE; 'Heart' can = HUB.

¹⁴'Final check' can = checkmate, e.g. *A final check by extremely unpopular hobbyist* (7) ⇒ A+MATE+UR (FS in G&M, 09 Aug. 2008, clue 15A).

¹⁵But 'possessed' can = RAVING.

¹⁶Some hiddens (e.g. 'starts from') are telestiches, e.g. *Fat characters ending "As You Like It"* (4) ⇒ SUET (FS in G&M, 22 Oct 2007, clue 25D).

¹⁷In' can = POPULAR, ELECTED, &c. (see **Some Common Synonyms**, on p. 3).

¹⁸But 'host' can = many (HORDE, SLEW, C, TON, &c.) or = EMCEE (MC) as well as indicating a container or hidden answer.

¹⁹But 'some' can = ANY in a charade, e.g. *Fidgety Eliot opens some* (5) ⇒ AN(T.S.)Y

(FS in G&M, 15 Sept 2007, clue 15A).

²⁰'Cross' can = T, just as 'fork' can = Y, 'bend' can = ESS, &c.

*FS in G&M' = Fraser Simpson in *The Globe and Mail*.

Some Abbreviations

about*	→ RE, CA, ON, OR SO, TOPIC	
as	→ REP, QUA	
alternative*	→ OR	
bed	→ COT, CRIB, PLOT, GARDEN	
by*	→ AT, X	
British	→ B	
college or school	→ U, ETON, YALE, &c.	
commercial	→ AD	
court	→ CT, WOO	
current	→ I, see also 'in' (in Some Common Synonyms , below)	(physics)
dam	→ EWE, MOTHER	
doctor*(s)	→ DR(S), MD(S), RIG, (AMA), VET, SURGEON(S)	
fashion*	→ see 'in' (in Some Common Synonyms , below)	
force	→ F, DINT	(physics)
former	→ EX, NÉE, PRIOR, LATE	
fort, island, river, street	→ FT, I (OR CAY &c.), R, ST	(maps)
front*	→ VAN	
girl	→ GAL, MAID, MISS, BELLE	
head*, a	→ PER	
hockey player/position	→ WING	
Illinois, Ontario	→ ILL, ONT	(for example)
integrated circuit	→ IC	
loud/strong	→ F	(forte)
soft/quiet	→ P, MUM	(piano)
very soft	→ PP	
Liberal*/Republican, Right-wing	→ L, GRIT/R, TORY	
lead	→ PB, VAN, LEASH, head	see also 'shot' below
silver, gold, iron, &c.	→ AG, AU (OR OR) , FE (OR PRESS), &c. ¹	(chemistry)
left	→ L, PORT	(nautical)
manuscript	→ MS	
married	→ M	(genealogy)
men	→ SONS, CHAPS, PAWNS, MISTERS	
Monday, Tuesday, &c.	→ M, T, W, F, S	
month	→ MO	
mother, father	→ MA (OR DAM), PA (OR FOUNDER)	
North, South, &c.	→ N, S, E, W, L, R, U, D ²	
nothing or zero	→ LOVE, O	(tennis)
pawn	→ P, MAN, SELL, PIECE	
play	→ DRAMA	
provided or given	→ IF, LENT	(math, logic)
senior	→ SR, DOYEN, ELDER	
shared	→ CO- ³	
shot*	→ BB, PER, POP, DRAM, EACH, LEAD, AMMO, TRY	see also 'lead' above
state*	→ AVER, Ohio, &c.	
study	→ CON, DEN, READ, SCAN, REVIEW	
that man	→ HE, HIM	
temperature	→ T	
time ⁴	→ T, AT, AGE, EON, ERA, TERM, EPOCH, PERIOD	
true, false, wrong, good, yes, no	→ T (OR SO), F, X (OR SIN, TORT, ERROR), G, Y, N	
page	→ P	
pair*	→ PR	
pitcher	→ P, EWER	(baseball)
prisoner	→ CON	
South Dakota, Florida,	→ SD, FL	(for example)
unknown	→ N, X	(from math)
used	→ W	(double-'U's)
White	→ E.B., W, PURE	(author)
work	→ W	(physics)

*Could also indicate wordplay

¹'Tin' = CAN more often than = SN; 'Gold' can = OR as well as = AU; 'Iron' can = PRESS as well as = FE. 'Can' can = TIN, FIRE, LAYOFF.

²'Down' can = SAD.

³Snake shared undergarment? (5) ⇒ CO BRA © 2008 by Fraser Simpson (clue 12A of puzzle #19 in 102 *Cryptic Crosswords* published by Sterling with ISBN 978-1-4027-5489-0).

⁴'Short time' can = MO, SEC, SHAKE OF A LAMB'S TAIL, &c.; 'Times' can = BY, X, or anything else suggesting mathematical multiplication.

Bits and Pieces

point	→ N, S, E, W, NW, &c.	redundant	→ doubled word
decade	→ EIGHTIES (e.g.)	wrong*	→ X, SIN, TORT, ERROR
personal	→ AD	ten	→ X, IO, CHI
pupil	→ eye	4, 5, 50, 100, 500, 1000	→ IV, V, L, C, D, M ¹
edge*	→ RIM, HEM, BORDER	mischievous* one	→ IMP
old (modern)	→ signals archaic word ² , former, AGED, ELDER	one	→ I, A, AN, EG, ACE, EACH, SOLE, SINGLE, PER?, A POP?
circle, globe, none, no, round, bagel, ___'s egg	→ o	put down*, negative review	→ DIS, PAN

Some Common Synonyms

addition, building	→ EL	again	→ RE-
agreement	→ AYE, YES, AMEN	agreement, foreign*	→ SI, OUI, &c.
awesome	→ RAD	baby	→ PAMPER
black car	→ HEARSE	black eye	→ SHINER
bone	→ OS, ILIUM	boy	→ SON
carrots, with	→ CRECY (cooking)	celebration	→ FEST, FETE
celebrant	→ FETER	company, multinat.	→ UN
conclude	→ INFER	cool	→ ICE
cover	→ LID	desire	→ WISH
die	→ CUBE	drip, drop	→ IV, TEAR
easel	→ STAND	extremely*	→ TOO
feature*	→ body part, e.g. CHIN	fellow	→ DON, MAN, GENT
friend, partner	→ PAL, ALLY, PEER	force	→ F, DINT
forty days	→ LENT	gallery	→ TIER
general, (US General)	→ G, BRASS, (LEE)	god	→ RA, PAN, ARES, DEVA
gun	→ GAT, REV, UZI	grateful	→ ASHES
gym, health club ³	→ Y[YMCA], SPA	help	→ AID
hit hard*	→ POW, BIFF, SWAT, &c.	impersonating*	→ AS
indicate	→ INFER	insult*	→ DIS, PAN
John	→ LOO, CAN	journey, part of	→ LEG
key	→ I, ISLE, ISLAND	magistrate, Venetian	→ DOGE, (DOGEA)
mountain	→ MT, ALP, PEAK	my	→ WOW, GEE (Oh my!)
no longer	→ EX, NÉE, PRIOR, FORMER	odd ⁴	→ RUM
pastime	→ GAME	petition	→ ASK, SUE, LIST
pixie	→ ELF	profit	→ GAIN
repair*	→ FIX, EDIT	selection	→ example of
soldier	→ GI, ANT	soldier, captured*	→ POW
steal	→ ROB	story	→ LIE, TALE, TIER
train	→ EL, COACH	trash*	→ DUMP, RUBBISH, DIS, RUM
trial	→ TEST, PROVE	TV show	→ ER
twin	→ CHAN OF ENG	vandal	→ HUN
weak*	→ THIN (as in tea)	win	→ W, GAIN
winding, river	→ ESS	word, last	→ AMEN

bank	→ GALLERY, TIER, ROW, RELY, TD	in*	→ TRENDY, VOGUE, CHIC, HIP, RAGE, ELECTED, POPULAR
on-line ____	→ E-____, abbrev. (e.g., are you online? = RU)	plot	→ BED, MAP, CABAL, RING, STORY, GARDEN
pop	→ EACH, PER, father, soft drink	record	→ LOG, BEST, LP, EP, DISC, LEDGER
red	→ R, Communist, Soviet (e.g., red plane = MIG)	rock*	→ ORE, LAVA, (rel.: SCREE, STRATA)
Simpson	→ BART, HOMER, LISA, MARGE, MAGGY, OJ	support*	→ LEG, PROP, BASE, BASIS, STAND, RAFTER

*Could also indicate wordplay.

¹But '86' can = TOSS, SINK, &c., or SMART (from TV); and '1000' can = G (grand), M (Roman numeral), K (kilo-) or THOU(slang);

'4 x 4' can = UTE.

²But 'old country' can = USSR, EIRE or CATHAY; 'Modern art?' = ARE

(²'Modern art' by Fraser Simpson in *The Walrus* 5(1) (Jan./Feb. 2008), clue #20).

See also **Bits and Pieces** (above) for 'one', 'ten', and 'forty days'; See **Miscellaneous** (below) for numbers in other languages.

³'Club' can also = BAT, MACE, TEAM or refer to a card suit.

⁴'Odd' can indicate anagram or telestitch.

Some -er Puns

badger	→ RAG ON	Barker	→ BOB, SEAL
bitter	→ ALE, STOUT, beer	breather	→ LUNG
butter	→ GOAT	camper	→ RV
catcher	→ TRAP (see also 'trapper')	character	→ letter, ideogram, AURA, RÔLE, RUNE
charter	→ MAP MAKER, FOR HIRE	chopper(s)	→ TOOTH (TEETH)
cooler	→ 'ADE, JAIL (CAN, BRIG, CELL, GAOL)	copper	→ CU, CENT, PENNY, police
cylinder	→ LOOP	drawer	→ TILL
drawing	→ LOT, LOTTERY	eavesdropper	→ ICICLE
farmworker	→ BRACERO ¹	feller	→ LUMBERJACK
Fisher	→ CARRIE	flatter	→ BUTTER UP
flower	→ RIVER	forecaster	→ PROPHET
gripper	→ TALON	heater	→ GUN
hipster	→ CAT, HEPCAT	Homer	→ HR, WINSLOW
home-wrecker	→ TORNADO	honker	→ NOSE
hopper	→ HARE, RABBIT	jogger	→ REMINDER
layer	→ HEN	letter opener	→ DEAR SIR
lighter	→ FLINT	listener	→ EAR
lower	→ COW, cattle, kine, neat, bovine	mariner	→ TAR, sailor
member, colony	→ ANT, BEE	Mideasterner	→ SEMITE
minister	→ TEND, NURSE	mister	→ SPRAY BOTTLE
murderer	→ CAIN	newspaper	→ RAG
number	→ N, SKIT, ANAESTHETIC, song, dance	one evening	→ AVENGER
ones that ____	→ ____-ERS	Perrier?	→ EAU
picker	→ guitarist, harpist, &c.	pitcher	→ P, ADMAN
planter	→ SEEDER	player, tape	→ DJ
players	→ ORCHESTRA	porter	→ ALE
prayer	→ PRIEST	prayer?, good	→ AMEN+ABLE
processor, food	→ TOOTH	promoter	→ ANGEL
revolver	→ wheel ² , satellite	rider	→ PS, JOCKEY, PASSENGER
rocket launcher	→ NASA	rubber	→ MASSEUR
seeder	→ PLANTER	server	→ TRAY
sewer	→ TAILOR, SEAMSTRESS, NEEDLE, &c.	sister	→ NUN
sitter	→ HEN	soldier	→ ANT, GI
steeper	→ TEA BAG	streaker	→ COMET
stroller	→ AMBLER	swimmer(s)	→ FISH, SCHOOL
teacher	→ LESSON, SWAMI, RABBI, TUTOR, PROF	tear-jerker	→ ONION
tender, legal	→ RN (registered nurse)	tower	→ TUGBOAT
trapper	→ NET, WEB	trouper	→ ballet dancer, actor
worker	→ ANT, BEE, HAND, STRIVER	writer	→ PEN, HAND

Miscellaneous

after making	<i>Defeat after making AC flaw (6) ⇒ DEFECT (from defeat)</i>	(source unknown)
	<i>Sharp-witted charlatan has change of heart (5) ⇒ QUICK (from quack)</i>	FS in G&M, * 07 Feb 2009, clue 23D
phone #	<i>A pastime: Phone 6 names, primarily Greek (9) ⇒ A+GAME+MNO+N</i>	FS in G&M, 04 Aug 2001, clue 26A
telestitch	<i>Evens out in unsteady kind of car (4) ⇒ USED (UnStEaDy)</i>	FS in 102, [†] clue 17A of puzzle #37
(foreign)	<i>East German with resplendent bird (7) ⇒ OST+RICH</i>	FS in G&M, 27 Apr 2003, clue 18A
	<i>Competitor 4 at Oktoberfest (4) ⇒ VIER</i>	FS in G&M, 20 Oct 2007, clue 18A
(punctuation pun)	<i>[I note dins]? (2,8) ⇒ I+N. B.+RACKETS</i>	FS in G&M, 20 Oct 2007, clue 13D
	<i>Professor/benefactor (5) ⇒ DON+OR</i>	FS in G&M, 12 Jan 2008, clue 13A

Sources

- [1] The Games guide to solving cryptic crosswords. The text is reprinted from *Games Magazine's World of Cryptic Crosswords*. © 1992 by Games Magazine. P.O. Box 184, Fort Washington, PA, 19034, USA.
- [2] Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon. Clue-solving for beginners: Instructions for The Atlantic Puzzler.
- [3] Peter Biddlecombe (ed.). Yet another guide to cryptic crosswords. Downloaded on 29 April 2000 from (URL:<http://www.biddlecombe.demon.co.uk/yagcc/>).
- [4] Theresa Gies. Guide to solving cryptic crosswords. 'Other Clue Types' section especially; downloaded on 29 April 2000 from <http://www.execulink.com/~tagies/cryptics/solvingguide/other.html>. (Main page is at <http://www.execulink.com/~tagies/cryptics/solvingguide/solvingguide.html>).
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- [6] Fraser Simpson. How to do a Cryptic Crossword puzzle. Downloaded on 03 May 2000 from (URL:<http://www.globeandmail.com/services/site/crypticcrossword.html>).
- [7] Fraser Simpson. *The Globe and Mail Cryptic Crosswords*, volume 1. Times Books, 1997. ISBN 0-8129-2946-2.

¹'Bracero' = Mexican migrant worker (from Cox & Rathvon in *The Atlantic*).

²'Wheels' can indicate reversal (FS in G&M*, 30 Aug 2008, clue 2D).

*'FS in G&M' = Fraser Simpson in *The Globe and Mail*.

[†]'FS in 102' = Fraser Simpson in *102 Cryptic Crosswords* (published by Sterling with ISBN 978-1-4027-5489-0 in 2008).