

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 ⁵ , in mouth, for the auditor, reporter's, speaker's, professor's, retailer's v.: hear, say ⁶ , utter, voice, quote, dictate, attend, broadcast ⁷	a <i>Homophone</i> or <i>Oronym</i>
suggests <i>removal, lack or incompleteness⁸</i>	except for head/heart/tail, -less, mostly, shy syns. { head ^{9,10} = introduction to, top, prow, first, greatest, start, leader, piece ¹¹ / capital / chief / bit (of) ¹¹ , (de)face ¹² , originally ¹³ , largely centre ¹⁴ = heart ¹⁴ , stripped, inside of, empty tail = end, finish ¹⁵ , at the back head & tail = edges, borders, peel(ed), coat, extreme(ly) ¹⁶ , outside of practically, unfinished, curtail, 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,¹⁷ concealment, selection from¹⁸ or contribution to</i>	in ¹⁹ , within, without, goes around, somewhat, outside(?) v.: host ²⁰ , grip, hold, fill, wrap, wear, surround, clutch, interrupt, contain, arrest, describe, tenants, swallow, parting, pocket, '... on board' = S(...)S in ¹⁹ , feature, element, some ²¹ , a little / part (of), among, going through, sitting in, for a stretch, from, too much for v.: host ²⁰ , hide, hold, line, incorporate, catch, bury, house, show, display, provide, take, stock, cross ²² , 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 (EXAMPLE, PARADIGM, &c.) or a specific person.

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

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

⁵'Make sound' can = FIX, CURE, HEAL, REPAIR, &c.

⁶But 'say' can also = FOR EXAMPLE = E.G.

⁷'Broadcast' can indicate an anagram, a homophone, or = ON AIR or perhaps SOWN.

⁸Distinguishing incompleteness from selection — which may signal a container or hidden answer — can be tricky.

⁹'Ultimately', 'initially', 'from the beginning', 'after the debut', &c. can suggest acronym, initialism, or telestitch (see n.18).

¹⁰'Pair of' can mean first two letters (also 'pair' can = PR); 'Couple' can = WED.

¹¹But 'piece' can = GUN, 'piece of cereal' = OAT, 'bit of hype' = AD, and 'part of an ear' = COB. See also n.18.

¹²But '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).

¹³'Originally' could suggest either the start (first letter), change (an anagram) or NÉE.

¹⁴But 'centre of church' = NAVE; 'Heart' can = HUB.

¹⁵'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).

¹⁶See **Some Common Synonyms** (on p.3) for other meanings of 'extreme' and its variants.

¹⁷But 'possessed' can = RAVING.

¹⁸Some hidden (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).

¹⁹'In' can = POPULAR, ELECTED, &c. (see **Some Common Synonyms**, on p.3).

²⁰But 'host' can = many (HORDE, SLEW, C, D, M, TON &c.) or = EMCEE (MC) as well as indicating a container or hidden answer.

²¹But '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).

²²'Cross' can = T or X, just as 'fork' can = Y, 'bend' can = ESS, 'glasses' can = OO, &c., notch can = V

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

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, ERST	
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, SH, 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	→ RA, SONS, CHAPS, PAWNS, MISTERS	
Monday, Tuesday, &c.	→ M, T, W, F, S	
month	→ MO	
mother, father	→ MA (OR DAM), PA (FOUNDER OR SIRE TOO)	
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 SPELL	
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, BLUE, EIDER, SWALLOW (e.g. EAT, DRINK).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.

point	→ N, S, E, W, NW, &c.
decade	→ EIGHTIES (e.g.)
personal	→ AD
pupil ¹	→ eye
edge*	→ RIM, HEM, BORDER
old (modern)	→ signals archaic word ³ , former, AGED, ELDER
circle, globe, none, no, round, bagel, ___'s egg ⁴	→ o

redundant	→ doubled word
wrong*	→ X, SIN, TORT, ERROR
ten	→ X, IO, CHI
4, 5, 50, 100, 500, 1000	→ IV, V, L, C, D, M ²
mischevious* one	→ IMP
one	→ I, A, AN, EG, ACE, EACH, SOLE, SINGLE, PER?, A POP?
put down*, negative review	→ DIS, PAN

Some Common Synonyms

addition, building	→ EL
agreement	→ AYE, YES, AMEN
awesome	→ RAD
bank	→ GALLERY, TIER, ROW, RELY, TD
black eye	→ SHINER
boy	→ SON
celebration	→ FEST, FETE
company, multinat.	→ UN
cool	→ ICE
desire	→ WISH
drip, drop	→ IV, TEAR
extremely*	→ SO ⁵ , TOO, OVERLY
fellow	→ DON, MAN, GENT
force	→ F, DINT
gallery	→ TIER
green	→ L, G, GO, ILL, NOVICE
gun	→ GAT, REV, UZI
gym, health club ⁶	→ Y[YMCA], SPA
hit hard*	→ POW, BIFF, SWAT, &c.
indicate	→ INFER
John	→ LOO, CAN
key	→ CAY, I, ISLE, ISLET, ISLAND
mountain	→ MT, ALP, PEAK
no longer	→ EX, NÉE, PRIOR, FORMER, ERST
pastime	→ GAME, HOBBY
pixie	→ ELF
repair*	→ FIX, EDIT
sign	→ OMEN, ENDORSE, Zodiac
soldier	→ GI, ANT
steal	→ ROB
train	→ EL, COACH
trial	→ TEST, PROVE
twin	→ CHAN OF ENG
weak*	→ THIN (as in tea)
winding, river	→ ESS

again	→ RE-
agreement, foreign*	→ SI, OUI, &c.
baby	→ PAMPER
black car	→ HEARSE
bone	→ OS, ILIUM
carrots, with	→ CRECY (cooking)
celebrant	→ FETER
conclude	→ INFER
cover	→ LID
die	→ CUBE
easel	→ STAND
feature*	→ body part, e.g. CHIN
friend, partner	→ PAL, ALLY, PEER
forty days	→ LENT
general, (US General)	→ G, BRASS, (LEE)
god	→ RA, PAN, ARES, DEVA
grateful	→ ASHES
help	→ AID
impersonating*	→ AS
insult*	→ DIS, PAN
journey, part of	→ LEG
magistrate, Venetian	→ DOGE, (DOGEA)
my	→ WOW, GEE (Oh my!)
odd ⁷	→ RUM
petition	→ ASK, SUE, LIST, PLEAD
profit	→ GAIN
selection*	→ example of
social	→ TEA
soldier, captured*	→ POW
story	→ LIE, TALE, TIER
trash*	→ DUMP, RUBBISH, DIS, RUM
TV show	→ ER
vandal	→ HUN
win	→ W, GAIN
word, last	→ AMEN

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, ENTER, LEDGER, PLATTER
red	→ R, Communist, Soviet (e.g., red plane = MIG)
rock*	→ ORE, LAVA, (rel.: TOR, SCREE, STRATA)
Simpson	→ BART, HOMER, LISA, MARGE, MAGGY, OJ
support*	→ LEG, PROP, BASE, BASIS, STAND, RAFTER

*Could also indicate wordplay.

¹Student can = TO-BE OR L

Is student of lepidopterology expecting this? (6-2-2) = MOTHER-TO-BE by Jeff Pearce in the Sunday Times #4541 (9 Jun 2013), clue #5D.

²But '86' can = TOSS, SINK, &c., or SMART (from TV); and '1000' can = G (grand), M (Roman numeral), K (kilo-) or THOU (slang);

'4 × 4' can = UTE. 'Ten' is above; 'Twelve' can = NOON or DOZEN. 'Number' is on p. 4.

³But 'old country' can = USSR, EIRE or CATHAY; 'Modern art?' = ARE

('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.

⁴But 'egg' can mean egg on = PROD, ENCOURAGE

⁵Extremely lawful to ask (7) ⇒ SO+LICIT

⁶'Club' can also = BAT, MACE, TEAM or refer to a card suit.

⁷'Odd' can indicate anagram or telestitch.

(Anonymous in *Globe & Mail* of 03 Dec. 2010, clue #7D).

Some -er Puns & Kennings

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	cleaner	→ DETERGENT
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
healer	→ BALM	heater	→ GUN
hipster	→ CAT, HEP CAT	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 ²	→ 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 ³ , 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 ⁴	→ LESSON, SWAMI, RABBI, TUTOR, PROF	tear-jerker	→ ONION
tender, legal	→ RN (registered nurse)	tower	→ TUGBOAT
trapper	→ NET, WEB	trouser	→ ballet dancer, actor
worker	→ ANT, BEE, HAND, SLAVE, STRIVER	writer	→ PEN, HAND

Miscellaneous

after making *Defeat after making AC flaw (6) ⇒ DEFECT (from defeat)*

(source unknown)

Sharp-witted charlatan has change of heart (5) ⇒ QUICK (from quack)

FS in G&M, * 07 Feb 2009, clue 23D

phone # *A pastime: Phone 6 names, primarily Greek (9) ⇒ A+GAME+MNO+N*

FS in G&M, 04 Aug 2001, clue 26A

teletitch *Evens out in unsteady kind of car (4) ⇒ USED (UnStEaDy)*

FS in 102, † clue 17A of puzzle #37

(foreign) *East German with resplendent bird (7) ⇒ OST+RICH*

FS in G&M, 27 Apr 2003, clue 18A

Competitor 4 at Oktoberfest (4) ⇒ VIER

FS in G&M, 20 Oct 2007, clue 18A

(letter bank) *As often as needed use pieces of harmed shark (10) ⇒ HAMMERHEAD*

FS in G&M, 06 Jul 2013, clue 27A

(punctuation pun) *[I note dins]? (2,8) ⇒ I+N. B.+RACKETS*

FS in G&M, 20 Oct 2007, clue 13D

Professor/benefactor (5) ⇒ DON+OR

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>.)
- [5] James A. Landon. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) for rec.puzzles.crosswords. Part 2 of Version 4.11. Downloaded on 29 April 2000 from (URL:<http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/FAQ/crossword-faq/part2/>).
- [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'Number' (as many) can = HOST, SLEW, TON, HORDE, &c.; 'Number' may also refer to a cardinal number (e.g. C, D, L, M, EIGHT).

³'Wheels' can indicate reversal (FS in G&M*, 30 Aug 2008, clue 2D).

⁴'Trained' can indicate travel by rail; 'Coach' can mean bus.

*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).