

HIDDEN WORDS

Here are some examples of hidden words:

the word ‘rack’ is hidden in the word ‘cracking’ cracking

the word ‘last’ is hidden in the word ‘plaster’ plaster

the word ‘agent’ is hidden in the word ‘magenta’ magenta

Here are some examples in which all the hidden words are types of fish:

cod is hidden in encoded

hake is hidden in shaken

eel is hidden in Speelman

Hidden words can also occur across word boundaries. For example:

the word ‘met’ is hidden in ‘time trials’ time trials

the word ‘each’ is hidden in ‘idea change’ idea change

the word ‘toffee’ is hidden in ‘best of feelings’ best of feelings

Practice with hidden words-

- How many hidden words of three or more letters can you find in Constantinople?

The Hidden Word clue

Clue 1: Fish hidden in creels (3)

Clue 2: Bird hidden in hollow larch (3)

Clue 3: Item of furniture hidden in stables (5)

Clue Structure: Definition – **indicator** – *where it is hidden (location)*

Indicators: the indicator doesn’t have to be phrased as ‘hidden in’—any word or phrase which indicates that the answer is to be found as a sequence of consecutive letters will do —such as ‘inside’, ‘spotted in’, ‘held by’, ‘partly’, ‘revealing’, ‘in’, ‘section of’ or ‘some’.

So our three clues could be: Clue 1: Fish **held by** creels (3)

Clue 2: Bird **spotted in** hollow larch (3)

Clue 3: Item of furniture **inside** stables (5)

Definitions – usually at one end of the clue; so Clue 2 could be “Hollow larch **conceals** bird”

PRACTICE

A. Can you find words meaning ‘period’, ‘traitor’ and ‘proportion’ in the word ‘generation’?

B. This exercise gives practice in spotting hidden words across word boundaries.

Example: Find a word meaning ‘ruler’ in ‘marque engraving’ (5) QUEEN

1 Find a word meaning ‘wishes’ in ‘attitudes I respect’ (7)

2 Find a word meaning ‘pursuing’ in ‘music has, in general’ (7)

3 Find a word meaning ‘back’ in ‘belief in ancestry’ (7)

Practice clues. Solve the following Hidden Word clues, making sure that you can identify the indicator and definition in each clue:

1 Young chap spotted in glade (3)

6 Chameleon camouflages sign (3)

2 Partly trimmed edge (3)

7 Wake up in trousers (5)

3 Gem found in chest on Exmoor (5)

8 Some sacred area of land (4)

4 Best section of light opera (3)

9 Sitcom for TV features cosiness (7)

5 Tree in Chelmsford (3)

10 Sequence from J.S.Bach I eventually accomplish (7)

ANAGRAMS – rearranging the letters of a word or phrase

see if you can find words that are anagrams of the following:

gum, owl, drop, Mary, fates, flesh, hated, super, battle, hornet, reside

You may find it helpful to arrange the letters in a ring or randomly; cross off letters to check the answer

The anagram clue: Structure: Definition – **indicator** – *ingredients*

Eg. Gain control of unruly stream (6)

Anagram indicators Any word or phrase that indicates a disturbance to the natural order of things will serve as an anagram indicator. For example 'in error', 'about', 'unusual', 'cooked', 'out', 'change', 'upset', 'off' etc

Clue 1: Discontinue post in error (4) Answer: STOP

Clue 2: Change models infrequently (6) Answer: SELDOM

Clue 3: Coach rearranged the race (7) Answer: TEACHER

The ingredients for the anagram need to be adjacent to the indicator and, as is the case with Hidden Word clues, the definition may come at the beginning or at the end.

Sometimes the ingredients consist of more than one word, as shown by Clue 3.

Exercises

Find anagrams for these groups of letters

a bit, has info, T.S.Eliot, wings? Ha!, calm Serb, melodic pact.

The following are in a format similar to the structure of an anagram clue:

1 What anagram of 'eager' is a word meaning 'concur' ? (5)

2 What anagram of 'Nepal' is a word meaning 'flat' ? (5)

3 What anagram of 'garden' is a word meaning 'peril' ? (6)

4 What anagram of 'rearing' is a word meaning 'more annoyed' ? (7)

These next ones include anagram indicators:

5 What 'strange devil' is a word meaning 'existed' ? (5)

6 What 'unusual shape' is a word meaning 'period' ? (5)

7 What 'messy red rag' is a word meaning 'look at' ? (6)

8 What 'confused marine' is a word meaning 'stay' ? (6)

Practice clues Solve the following—and identify the indicator, ingredients and definition in each clue:

1 Strange devil existed (5)

6 Left altered fabric (4)

2 Many lost out (4)

7 Learnt about animal horn (6)

3 Competitive group cooked meat (4)

8 Told off idiot (4)

4 Unusual pastel dishes (6)

9 Domestic taverns refurbished (7)

5 Delicate lager if blended (7)

10 Burn my hat in a frenzy?—it's not true! (5,4)