

		C								
	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	S
		Y								T
		P								A
G	E	T	T	I	N	G				R
		I								T
		C								E
										D

A GUIDE TO READING AND SOLVING CRYPTIC CLUES

2 - The answer is in the clue ... Anagram and Concealed Word clues

These types of clues help can be a real help in getting started on a crossword for two reasons - firstly because it can often be easy to spot clues of these type, and secondly because you have the actual answer right in front of you, even if a bit disguised. The disguise might in the form of an anagram or of a word hidden within others - either embedded or made up from first, last, odd or even characters.

Anagram Clues

This is where the clue contains words that can be unscrambled to give a solution to write into the grid. All the letters of the solution are there, but are rearranged to give totally different words. Here are some examples:

- **Tiny dame, surprisingly explosive (8)**
- **A name is confused, memory being lost (7)**
- **All I have to do is sort out dark wool (8)**

The thing that indicates these might be anagram clues are some form of word or phrase **that hints at the idea of mixed up, moved, gone wrong** ... The indicators in the examples above are 'surprisingly', 'confused', and 'sort out'. (Although there are a massive range of similar words that could be used to do the same job).

What you then have to work out then is whether it is the bit *before* or the bit *after* the indicator that is the clue 'definition', to tell you what you What is then left are the ingredient letters to be unscrambled.

Hint - look for odd strings of words that are unlikely to be a definition of the answer. For example is it more likely that you'd be asked for another word for a 'tiny dame' or for an 'explosive'. Or for 'dark wool' rather than 'all I have to do' Plus look at the number of letters in the answer - and that for example you can get an 8 letter word by unscrambling 'tiny dame' but not by unscrambling 'explosive'

So in the examples above do NOT focus on the full clue, but be on the lookout for

- **Indicators** - words hinting at mixed up or muddled (i.e. letters to be rearranged)
- **Definition** - the clue for what the answer actually represents
- **Ingredients** - words that give you the right number of letters for the anagram.

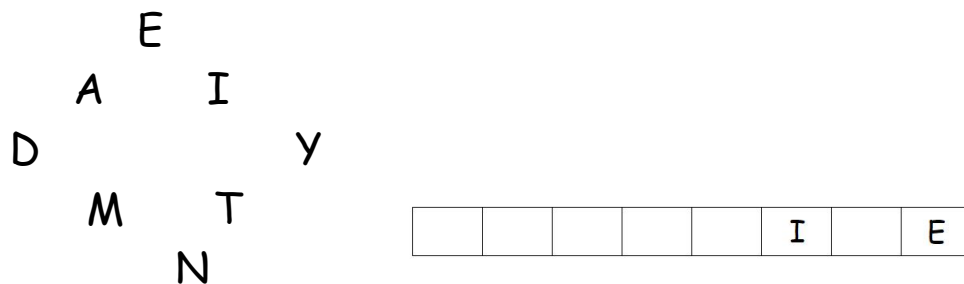
So here are the three clues again, but now with the three different elements (*indicator*, **definition** and ingredient) marked up for you

- Tiny dame, *surprisingly* **explosive** (8)
- A name is *confused*, **memory being lost** (7)
- **All I have to do** is *sort out* dark wool (8)

But that still leaves the task of then finding a solution that is BOTH an anagram of the ingredients AND that ties in with the definition of the answer required.

Good advice here is to grab some blank paper and hand write the letters out in a different order, in a circle or random pattern, so your brain is able to forget the original words, and find new ones instead. So instead of reading 'tiny dame' and having that idea in your head, you look at just a collection of letters and can then maybe see new combinations more easily ...

Plus, as words intersect in a crossword grid, then maybe some letters in across clues are already filled in, based on down clues (or vica versa) so you have a partial pattern.



And when you spot that you can make the word DYNAMITE out of these ingredients, you have found a solution which matches with the definition of a type of explosive.

In the same way, the letters of 'a name is' can be reorganised to give AMNESIA which is a form of memory loss, and the letters of 'dark wool' can give the word WORKLOAD which is what I need to do.

✓ Clues solved.

Note however that the setter is permitted to throw in odd bits of punctuation and short words, so that the clue reads as a proper sentence. Thus for getting to the answer, there is no need for that comma after confused or for the word 'is' in the last clue. These are only there to help the clue to read sensibly at first glance - and you can simply ignore them for checking that the solution fully matches the clue.

Practice Clues: Anagrams

Solutions given in footnote below

Exercise 2.1. Basic anagram clues ¹

For starters - definition underlined and *Indicator* picked out in italics

- Card some *organised* for colleagues (8)
- Colour of bream *swimming* (5)
- *Rambling* up to cafe to get a hot drink (3,2,3)
- In Leeds I *arranged* a second job (8)
- Brief experience of *rogue* state (5)

Exercise 2.2. More examples ²

See if you can split the clues into the 3 parts yourself

- Brewed tea, had breakfast? (3)
- Tool reinvented as a winch (8)
- Big band has rector dancing (9)
- A thick skinned beast who could become richer soon? (10)
- Infidelity hurt true lady (8)

Anagram clues tend to get harder as the anagram gets longer, and if the solution is a less well known word or phrase, or is less directly related to the definition.

However if - for starters - you can at least spot that a clue is an anagram, then you are already part way in dealing with this category of clue.

¹ Exercise 2.1

Card some *organised* for colleagues (8)
 Colour of bream *swimming* (5)
 Rambling up to cafe to get a hot drink (3,2,3)
 In Leeds I *arranged* a second job (8)
 Brief experience of *rogue* state (5)

COMRADES
 AMBER
 CUP OF TEA
 SIDELINE
 TASTE

² Exercise 2.2

Brewed tea, had breakfast? (3)
 Tool reinvented as a winch (8)
 Big band has rector dancing (9)
 A thick skinned beast who could become richer soon? (10)
 Infidelity hurt true lady (8)

ATE
 CHAINSAW
 ORCHESTRA
 RHINOCEROS
 ADULTERY

Concealed Word Clues

These are an even easier clue than anagrams are, since you don't even have to do any unscrambling - the solution is literally part of the wording of the clue. It can be read from within it. An example of a Hidden Word Clue is

Something for breakfast? It's nice, really - in part (6)

Again these clues will usually contain three parts, an indicator as well as a definition and the ingredients for the answer. In this case the indicator is '**in part**'. Other indicators could be 'in', 'bit of', 'partially' - anything that hints at being within.

The definition here is 'something for breakfast' and the solution (which is CEREAL) is literally within the words of the ingredient part. CEREAL, if you look carefully, is right there embedded within the phrase 'It's nice, really'.

Alternatively the word could be there to read, but only if you read the initial letters of ingredient words, or final letters, or only the odd or even numbered characters, or something like that. These are very unusual, but worth being aware of the possibility. An example here would be ...

Arab lip read quip, missing odd bits (5)

This gives solution IRAQI, which you can get by reading characters 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 of the ingredient phrase, which is 'lip read quip'; Arab is the definition that fits with this.

Exercise 2.3. Hidden Word Clues ³

- Comfy home in one's town (4)
- Old performer partially unconscious, in a trance (7)
- Girl discovered in brothel, enamoured (6)
- Bit of rump or knuckle, dinner for the carnivore? (4)
- Sailor's tea urn oddly selected (3)
- It grinds, moving only left and right at first (5)

³ **Exercise 2.3**

Comfy home in one's town

Old performer partially unconscious, in a trance (7)

Girl discovered in brothel, enamoured (6)

Bit of rump or knuckle, dinner for the carnivore? (4)

Sailor's tea urn oddly selected (3)

It grinds, moving only left and right *at first* (5)

NEST

SINATRA

HELENA

PORK

TAR

MOLAR