

		C								
	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	S
		Y								T
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A GUIDE TO READING AND SOLVING CRYPTIC CLUES

4 - Some Additional Clue Types

While the majority of clue types require the solver to split the words of the clue into a definition and ingredients, this is not an absolute rule. Two clue types do not provide ingredients. These are the double definition and the single definition.

Double Definition is where you get two different definitions, but each leading to the same answer. An example of this would be

Familiar Sun to Sat? (8)

For this clue the solution is EVERYDAY. You can get this from the word familiar (e.g. an 'everyday' object) or from Sun to Sat (i.e. every day of the week). These can be quite fun to spot!

Note that the question mark symbol is sometimes added to indicate 'look at this carefully' - it might not be the type of clue you'd normally expect, or you'll need to find alternative interpretations of the phrases within the question.

Exercise 4.1. Double Definitions ¹

- More than in the past (4)
- Feel bad about street in Paris (3)
- Top military officers thought of as bold? (5)
- What runner with handicap does is significant ? (7,6)
- Man bringing a bit of sunshine (3)

¹ Exercise 4.1

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| ● More than in the past (4) | OVER |
| ● Feel bad about street in Paris (3) | RUE |
| ● Top military officers thought of as bold? (5) | BRASS |
| ● What runner with handicap does is significant (7,6) | CARRIES WEIGHT |
| ● Man bringing a bit of sunshine (3) | RAY |

Sometimes these can be a bit more tongue in cheek - requiring you to think more laterally and use words in an unusual way. For example

- **Urgently request ancient stories of devils?**

Here another term for urgently request is 'implore'. A phrase of 'implore' can be represented as ancient stories of devils - not a phrase you're ever likely to have heard before or ever likely to hear again, but for this purpose it fits.

Single Definitions Clues

Single definition clues have ONLY the definition, but this is almost always very much one of these lateral thinking, tongue in cheek format. You can really expect to rack your brains on this type of clue. For example here is a famous single definition clue

- **HIJKLMNO (5)**

These are the letters of the alphabet, H to O, which you could express differently as H₂O, which is the chemical symbol for the required solution - WATER.

Or another one, where the words you see might have more than one meaning ...

- **Number in theatre (12)**

Here you will almost certain think in term of mathematical numbers and of a theatre which puts on plays. However if you think of an operating theatre in a hospital and the staff member who numbs the pain - only then will you see that the clue can lead to a solution of ANAESTHETIST.

Not all single definition clues will be this obscure, but they do often require you to read the clue in a way which might not be first way that comes to mind.

These can be the hardest clues to reach a solution, simply because they nearly always are worded to lead you astray. Fortunately they are only rarely included!

4.2. A couple more examples² (but not expecting you to solve them, especially without having any letters already filled in to help you !!!)

- Supporter of wicked things
- Bar of Soap

² **Further Single Definition examples**

- Supporter of wicked things (11) CANDLESTICK
- Bar of Soap (6,6) ROVERS RETURN

(But don't worry at all if you didn't spot these - it takes a very devious brain to think of candles having wicks, and of Soap being a reference to a TV program, so if you got either of these solutions you are a natural!!!)

Use of Homophones

Here is a final new idea for this 'Additional Clues' section.

These are clues that require the solver to think of a word or phrase that SOUNDS the same as another - like RIGHT and WRITE. A homophone is defined as another word that sounds the same but is written differently. When these are used, there is generally an indicator phrase to indicate that you should imagine you are HEARING a word - like 'we hear', or 'did you say?' or 'on the radio' or 'reportedly' etc..

So an example using RIGHT and WRITE would be

- **Put pen to paper, did you say? That's correct. (5)**

As with earlier clues, this goes back to having a definition part and a word play part. The definition is 'That's correct'. The wordplay is the bit with the 'did you say' indicator linked to it, so 'Put pen to paper, did you say?'

The solution is therefore **RIGHT** as this is the spelling that fits the definition part.

Sometimes the homophone word is the whole answer. Sometimes however it might provide just one element of a chain or sandwich clue. For Example:

- English guy *heard* message (5)

This is E for english plus a homophone for Guy (MALE), to give **EMAIL**

Exercise 4.3 Homophones³

With definition underlined and *indicator in italics*

- Felt guilt about lacking etiquette *in speech* (4)
- Worth seeing set of web pages, *we're told* (5)
- Criticise girl *said* to be dejected (8)

Exercise 4.4 Homophones with no help⁴

- Group of wild animals was curious, reportedly (5)
- Full agreement we hear (6)
- What old lawn needs to be, we hear. It's faded. (7)

³ **Exercise 4.3**

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ● Felt guilt about lacking etiquette in speech (4) | RUED |
| ● Worth seeing set of web pages, we're told (5) | SIGHT |
| ● Criticise girl said to be dejected (8) | DISMAYED |

Homophones for RUDE, (Web)SITE, and DISS MAID

⁴ **Exercise 4.4**

- | | |
|---|---------|
| ● Group of wild animals was curious, reportedly (5) | PRIDE |
| ● Full agreement we hear (6) | PACKED |
| ● What old lawn needs to be, we hear. It's faded. (7) | RECEDED |

Homophones for PRIED, PACT and RE-SEEDED