

The Sunday Times Cryptic Crossword Book 1 – 2001

INTRODUCTION

The 80 crosswords in this collection, compiled by Barbara Hall were published by *The Sunday Times* prior to the millennium and submitted to HarperCollins as a collection in early 2000.

Appended is a sample crossword which can be utilized with the AI technology available on Microsoft Windows 11 in conjunction with Microsoft Office to assist those hard of sight or hearing or as a stimulus for hospital patients or those at fitness centres.

FOREWORD by Barbara Hall

The first *Sunday Times* crossword puzzle appeared in the newspaper in January, 1925. Since then it has enjoyed continuous popularity and is reprinted in other newspapers throughout the world.

The cryptic crossword was firmly established as a national and international pastime when, over fifty years ago, the compiler of this book of puzzles began her career as a professional crossword compiler. I was then a young Wren serving with the Royal Navy in the Second World War, and working with codes.

Since those days, cryptic crosswords have become increasingly complex, with setters vying to devise new ways of word-juggling to tantalise and baffle. Would-be-solvers new to cryptics will find helpful the detailed Solver's Guide at the beginning of this book.

A good crossword puzzle, as well as being both challenging and entertaining, must keep abreast of the times. Each year newly minted words swell our already enormous English vocabulary. New technical terms, too, can tax those who have not truly encyclopaedic knowledge. But all words in these puzzles can be tracked down in a good dictionary – we recommend *Collins English Dictionary* as an aid to temporarily baffled readers.

Barbara Hall

FOR THOSE NEW TO THE SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword compiling is a deceptive art. Humpty Dumpty in Lewis Carroll's 'Through the Looking-Glass' sums it up when he says, "When I use a word.... It means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less."

May I recommend, particularly to newcomers to the crossword, a simple approach taught me by my father, which is to study the solution and then examine the clue to work out how all the pieces came together to mean what the compiler chose them to mean! The method is particularly apt here because the solver is spared the agony of waiting for the next day's paper.

Here are a few sample clues to give you a flavour of what lies in store, followed by an appropriate introduction penned by my late father.

Grateful acknowledgment to the late Barbara Hall MBE, former Crossword Editor of *The Sunday Times* whose work is included in the computer crosswords, together with that of former compilers and editors, Elizabeth and Derek Jewell.

See the appended reproduction of the advertisement for both The Times and Sunday Times computer crosswords as originally announced on the final page of The Times Crosswords Omnibus Book Two published alongside this Sunday Times edition in 1996.

Enjoy!

**David Akenhead, Author of the Computer Crosswords
June 2023**

SAMPLE CLUES

Often does badly but gets decorated (9) FESTOONED

Convention: anagram of “often does”. Indicator: “badly”

Unlike Dogberry’s comparisons, not to be sniffed at (9) ODOURLESS

Convention: antonym. In Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* “Comparisons are odorous”. The opposite of odorous is odourless

“Whist, brother”, one need not say to him (8) TRAPPIST

Convention: association – silent order of monks

He may stop playing! (8) ORGANIST

Convention: cryptic definition – obvious when understood

But can these cakes sell like hot ones? (4) ICED

Convention: conundrum (or riddle)

Plain spoken guide (6) DIRECT

Convention: double meaning or two meanings

Policeman calls at the theatre (9) INSPECTOR

Convention: dramatic assoc – refers Priestley’s *The Inspector Calls*

Telephone about the duck – dry and going bad (7) ROTTING

Convention: envelope – O (duck) and TT (teetotal or dry) inside RING

Champion golfer’s casual request to caddie? (3,3,4) ANY OLD IRON

Convention: familiar – iron as in scrap and iron as in golf; song of music hall comedian, Harry Champion

Hair in distressing condition (5) TRESS

Convention: hidden – disTRESSing

Time and relative dimension in space vehicle. Who told you? (6) TARDIS

Conventions: initials or acronym – refers Dr Who, fictional time traveller

Last of the girls named as story-teller (8) TUSITALA

Conventions: lit. and surgery – “last of the girls” reveals RLS, initials Robert Louis Stevenson, alias Tusitala, “story-teller” of the South Seas

One might be the sum of two equal squares (9) RECTANGLE

Conventions: logic or conundrum

Artist’s punishment of careless kittens (4) OPIE

Conventions: nursery rhyme and word division – refers *Three Little Kittens* – “they shall have no pie” read O/PIE

A drinking man upset about a heroine of opera (5) TOSCA

Conventions: opera, word division, reversal – “A drinking man” is a sot, “upset” it becomes TOS plus C (about) plus A

Even both ways (5) LEVEL

Convention: palindrome – reads both ways (also double meaning)

Jane is heard to offer a wider view (7) SEYMOUR

Convention: pun or sound – Jane Seymour (third wife of Henry VIII) sounds like “see more”

Roman dictator given total American backing (5) SULLA

Convention: reversal – ALL US for “total American”. Indicator: “backing”

Changed a hundred to six hundred (9) RECTIFIED

Convention: Roman numerals – read instead AC to DC (alternating current to direct current)

A bardic spelling of the last saint (8) CRISPIAN

Shakespeare – in Henry V this is the Bard’s spelling of the patron saint of

shoemakers (last saint)

He painted Miss Martin topless (4) ETTY

Convention: surgery – the painter is BETTY minus B (All my eye and Betty Martin)

Sad outcome of rent reduction (8) TEARDROP

Convention: word division – TEAR/DROP read “rent reduction”

Strain to find way about the ship (6) STRESS

Convention: word division – ST (way) plus RE (about) plus SS (ship)

Transport as is right and fitting by river (7) RAPTURE

Convention: word division – R (right) plus APT (fitting) plus URE (river)

Inset paragraph or it has a divisive effect (9) SEPARATOR

Conventions: word div/envelope – SET plus PARA (inset – in set) plus OR

The state of one had rejected love (5) IDAHO

Conventions: word div/reversal – I (one) plus DAH (had, rejected) plus O (love)

Maybe either state is unorthodox (9) HERETICAL

Conventions: word div/anag – HERETI (anagram of “either”; indicator, “maybe”) plus CAL (state – California)

Eating corn, perhaps, each appears to transgress (8) ENCROACH

Conventions: envelope/anag – EACH envelopes (indicator, “eating”) an anagram of CORN (indicator, “perhaps”)

Introduction to The Times crossword (and others of that ilk)

By Edmund Akenhead, Times Crossword Editor, 1965-83

The devices used by a cryptic crossword compiler are so many and varied that an introduction such as this can only give the beginner a glimpse of them. Experience will prove the best teacher, but I hope that the following tips will help the beginner in his or her first steps towards mastering 'The Times' (and similar) crosswords.

The best known device is the anagram. "Terribly angered" is a definition of the answer "enraged", which is also an anagram of "angered", the word "Terribly" being used in the clue as an anagram indicator. The solver should always be on the look-out for words suggesting arrangement, change, wrongness, confusion, strangeness and the like which may point to anagrams in the clue: "new" is sometimes used, also "sort" and "out" (in the sense of "wrong"), while "perhaps", "maybe", and "possibly" will probably indicate anagrams. Then there are words which have different meanings: "refuse" in a clue may appear to be a verb meaning "decline", but it may really mean the noun describing "rubbish": "tent" may mean not a canvas shelter, but a Spanish wine: "saw" or "gnome" may mean a maxim. Solving crosswords certainly helps to enlarge one's vocabulary. All sorts of words have hidden meanings in crosswords with "do" clued as a party, "letter" as a landlord, "number" as an anaesthetic (that which numbs) and so ad infinitum, the oldest chestnut being "flower" as a river, while "sewer" may mean a sempstress and "cover for a sewer" will mean not a manhole but a thimble, and "tour de France" is not a cycle race but the Eiffel Tower.

Many a crossword answer is made up of other words indicated by the clue. "Loudly disapprove royal skating display? Some reservations here (7-5)" is solved by joining up Boo-king off-ice, while Mild-red is well known as a girl with slightly communist sympathies. A word may consist of one word containing another (Envelope), and there are many other ways in which words (including abbreviations) may be combined either in their normal, or in anagrammatic or reversed forms to make the answer. In such "build-ups" the word "river" may refer to one of the compiler's favourite British waterways - Dee, Exe, Fal or Ure (tributary of the Yorkshire Ouse).

Solvers should be familiar with many common abbreviations, such as e.g., i.e., the points of the compass N.S.E.W. (sometimes clued as bridge players),

musical notes A to G (or doh, re, mi etc) and Roman numerals M, D, C, L, X, V, I. The clue " 1,200 less 200 (10)" needs conversion into Roman numerals "MCC less CC" and anyone interested in cricket will know that the M in MCC stands for Marylebone. Chemical abbreviations for elements are sometimes used such as "au" (gold), "ag" (silver), "fe" (iron) etcetera. The letter L could be clued as money (pound sign), 50, lake, or as student, tyro, novice or learner (driver with L Plates. Solvers are also expected to know simple words in the more familiar foreign languages, particularly the articles, e.g. el (clued as "the Spanish), der ("the German") un ("a French") etc.

Finally, to mention four other types of clue: (a) Hidden answer clue "Something more in the next race (5)", here the answer EXTRA appears in consecutive letters in the clue (nEXT RAcE"). (b) Surgery, which requires a certain amount of doctoring of words to produce the desired effect. Associated words like "beheaded", "curtailed", "reduced", often indicate this type of clue: "Humperdinck in turn to some extent a singer (6)" answer TREBLE is one of my favourites. Englebert ("in turn") gives in reverse form TREBLEGNE and "to some extent" indicates a need for surgery or reduction. (c) "Sound" clues with sound-indicators such as "say", "we hear", "it's said", or "sound" telling the solver to look to the sound of the words used. "Some measure of spirit? I say! (5) gives the answer OPTIC (optic measures used in bars). "Say" in the clue tells the solver to look to the sound of "I", that is "eye" revealing an alternative meaning. (d) The acronym or word made up from the initial letters of other words. "Paddy as the normal agriculture initially here (5) PATNA.

An ounce of practical demonstration being worth a pound of theory I leave the rest up to you.

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Author: David Akenhead

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Puzzle Number 1

ACROSS:

- 1 A cast that's anything but colourful (4)
- 3 Favouring the strong and efficient is so worthwhile (10)
- 10 To make cuts including the Queen's entitlement would show good will (9)
- 11 Complete every last one at home (3,2)
- 12 Coarse aggregate (5)
- 13 Harvest and thresh the grain (8)
- 15 Beastly food store? It depends! (7)
- 17 Before examination a Greek character appears extremely strained (7)
- 19 Plays with a certain irony – a rest is demanded (7)
- 21 Hardy heroine taking time for a bit of mosaic (7)
- 22 Cross some alternative way to make an entrance (4,4)
- 24 Spare a note, but object (5)
- 27 Call in a friend – produce a bottle (5)
- 28 Select, unmarried and striking (6,3)
- 29 The author is not returning to the city (10)
- 30 A once great Russian star's ruination (4)

DOWN:

- 1 Oppose one against reform (10)
- 2 Any fellow will love such a greeting (5)
- 4 Telephone about final parting (7)
- 5 Load carried by soldiers going into battle (7)
- 6 Brown bread for tots – a crumbly sort (5)
- 7 Garden construction for the far-seeing (9)
- 8 The woman's English and uppity (4)
- 9 Put out over check on a man's cycle (8)
- 14 Better use this grater! (10)
- 16 Grave but sensible about change one must make (9)
- 18 The United Nations deal with trouble (8)
- 20 A personal voucher (7)
- 21 The sailor endlessly raced to port (7)
- 23 Mealy-mouthed party leader (5)
- 25 Clubs for the press? (5)
- 26 Some of the pictures shown are really impressive (4)

Puzzle Number 1: Solutions

ACROSS:

1 ASHY
3 PROFITABLE
10 TOLERANCE
11 ALL IN
12 GROSS
13 INGATHER
15 NOSEBAG
17 TAUTEST
19 SATIRES
21 TESSERA
22 TRAP DOOR
24 THING
27 PHIAL
28 SINGLE OUT
29 CHESTERTON
30 TSAR

DOWN:

1 ANTAGONISE
2 HELLO
4 RENDING
5 FREIGHT
6 TOAST
7 BELVEDERE
8 EDNA
9 CROSSBAR
14 STRAIGHTER
16 SATURNINE
18 UNSETTLE
20 SPONSOR
21 TARANTO
23 PILOT
25 IRONS
26 EPIC