

Crossaire Clues

Crossaire has many devious ways of baffling the crossword buff, but although clues may be difficult to unravel, Crossaire is fair – he wants us to solve them. There is always a logic even if it is sometimes hard to find. There are certain clues and parts of clues that crop up frequently in cryptic crosswords. Some are common to all and others are peculiar to individual compilers. These become familiar over time and can be quickly recognised. A blank Crossaire grid can seem totally incomprehensible to the uninitiated, but once the general principles and main conventions are understood, the task becomes far less daunting.

CONVENTIONS

A Crossaire clue can be usually broken down into three parts. The solution, usually indicated in one part, is arrived at by joining the other two parts.

Example 1. "The sort of death a priest might have, one may add (6)."

Solution: APPEND - the word death in a clue usually indicates the letters END in the answer. The word priest sometimes indicates the letters PP (parish priest). Joining these two parts together – A + PP + END – gives the answer APPEND, which is indicated in part 3 – "one may add".

Example 2. "That miserable accountant is worth his weight in diamonds (5)".

Solution: CARAT = miserable = RAT; accountant = CA (chartered accountant); - RAT + CA (anagram) = CARAT (diamond weight).

ANAGRAMS

An **anagram** is a word or phrase formed by the letters of another, in a different order.

Example 1: "The cockney girl and I wander around together (7)."

Solution: MEANDER – cockney girl = ER ('er); and I = AND ME; ER + AND ME (anagram) = MEANDER (wander about).

Example 2: "The artist had a broken rib, which is a thorny problem (5)".

Solution: BRIAR – Artist = RA (Royal Academy); Broken rib = BRI; RA + RIB (anagram) = BRIAR (thorny).

SYNONYMS

A **synonym**, as used in crosswords, is a word which has the same meaning, or nearly the same meaning, as another.

Example 1: "Phone for an adornment and be a good listener (7)".

Solution: EARRING – phone = RING; Listener = EAR; EAR + RING = EARRING (adornment).

Example 2: "Oh, it sounds as if you are in debt (3)."

Solution: OWE – "oh" sounds like OWE (in debt).

HOMOPHONES

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same but are different in meaning. In crosswords, the words may not sound exactly the same, but near enough to guess. Generally, but not always, homophones are indicated in a clue by the phrase "sounds like" or "we hear".

Example 1. "For the celebration, sounds as if you pretend to be sore (9)."

Solution: CHAMPAGNE – pretend = sham, which sounds like CHAM; sore = pain, which sounds like PAGNE; CHAM + PAGNE (for the celebration).

Example 2. "Prays, by the sound of it that you get a leg (6)."

Solution: EULOGY – "prays" sound like praise; U (you) + LEG (anagram) = EULOGY (praise).

PALINDROMES

A **palindrome** is a word that reads the same backwards and forwards; usually indicated in a clue by a phrase such as "backwards and forwards", "to and fro" etc.

Example 1. "He's tiny, whichever way you look at it" (3).

Solution: TOT.

Example 2. "No matter how you see it, it's old money" (3).

Solution: BOB (old shilling).

LETTER PLAYS

Great use is made of letter plays in Crossaire. After a little practice, they are generally easy to spot.

Example 1. "ABCEFG, one can affirm" (3).

Solution: NOD- there is no D in the string of letters, so NO D = affirm.

Example 2.

ETSETSETSETSETSETSETSET one holds (6).

Solution: TENETS – there are ten ETS here hence TENETS = principles one holds.

Using the list on conventions try the following.

The Clues

1. Being over weight, Edward is sick, unfortunately (3-5).
2. Mother is around the lair as one misses them (7).

Anagrams

3. It amounts to a week, and it is roused (8).
4. If you listen, you'll be able to join forces with this (6).

Synonym

5. Father is not going out, he hurts too much (4).

Homophones

6. Air or a sound (4)

Pallindrome

7. It goes round and round and also to and fro (5).

Letter plays

8. GTE, just a shade (5).
9. E/S, for ages

A	C	R	O	S	S	A	N	D	D	O	W	N	
C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	C	L	U	E	S

Common synonyms		Invoice	Bill	Possess	Own
Anger	ire	Irritation	Itch	Profit	Gain
Bet	Wager	Letters	Mail, Post	Rug	Mat
Check	Rein	Listener	Ear	Rush	Reed
Fair	Blonde	Pain	Ache	Saucepan	Pot
Fool	Ass	Peel	Rind	Serious	Grave
Fury	Anger, rage	Phone	Ring	Speed	Rate
Holiday	Leave	Pitch	Tar	Spoil	Mar
Inactive	Passive	Poet	Bard	Swarm	Teem
In debt	Owe	Poetry	Verse, Ode		

Common Homophones		Maid	Made	Plain	Plane
Ale	Ail	Mail	Male	Prays	Praise
Bear	Bare	Morning	Mourning	Rain	Reign
Board	Bored	New	Knew	Sent	Scent
Cause	Caws	No	Know	See	Sea
Gaul	Gall	Nose	Knows	Seed	Cede
High	Hi	Or	R	So	Sew, Sow
Horse	Hoarse	Owe	Oh	To	Too, Two
Hours	Ours	Pail	Pale	Would	Wood
I	Eye	Place	Plaice	You	U, Ewe
Lacks	Lax				

- The Answers
1. ILL-FATED: Overweight = FAT; Edward = ED; Sick = ILL. Thus ILL + FAT + ED = ILLFATED (unfortunate)
 2. MAIDENS: Mother is = MA IS; Lair = DEN; (misses)
 3. AWAKENED: A + WEEK + AND (anagram) = AWAKENED (roused)
 4. ENLIST: Listen (anagram) = ENLIST (join forces)
 5. PAIN: Father = PA; not going out = IN; PA + IN; PAIN (hurts)
 6. AURA: "Or" sounds like AURA (air)
 7. ROTOR: which is spelled the same backwards and forwards.
 8. TINGE: The letter T is contained within the letters G and E; hence T in GE = TINGE (shade)
 9. EONS: E/S/ E on S = EONS (ages)

When words in the left hand column are used in the clues, it generally indicates that the words or letters in the right-hand column form the solution or part of it.

Some Clue words	Solution (or part of it)
Abominable	YETI (snowman)
About	RE (or change order of letters for an anagram)
Accountant	CA (chartered accountant)
Account	AC
After tea	"T" is the first letter of word
Afterthought	PS
Again	RE...
Albert	AL
American Soldier	GI
American	
Intelligence	CIA
Animal (miserable)	CUR,RAT
Annoyance, Anger	IRE
Are, in short	R (sounds like are)
Aristocracy	GENT(S)
Artist	RA (Royal Academy)
At Home	IN
Ate (of late)	SUPPER, SUPPED
Avenue	AVE
Bovine (sound)	MOO
Be quiet	SH
Beastly	BEAR, LION, etc.
Bee	B
Behead	Drop the first letter
Bloom	Aster
Boy	SON, LAD, or male name
Brother (little)	BRO, BR
Bob	S (shilling)
Bird	TIT
Bury	INTER
Behold	LO
Border	RIM, EDGE
Cornelious	CON
Conservative	TORY
Came First	LED,
he/she came first	ADAM, EVE
Catalogue	LIST
Claim	IM (I am)
Claim	AVER
Cockney girl	ER ('er)
Communist	RED
Comparatively	...er
Counsel	SC (senior counsel)
Court (go to)	SUE
Craft	ART
Cut head off	Drop first letter
Cat	TOM
Cry (of Pain)	OW
Case	ATTACHE
CROWN (one with)	KING
Death	END
Degree, Graduate	BA, MA,
Directors	BOARD
Doctor	MO, Md, DR
Doctor (learned Divine)	DD (doctor of divinity)
Dog	TERRIER
Detectives	CID
Drink	ALE, PORT, GIN, BEER
Dead	LATE
Dickens	D. title or character
Dragon	BORE (drag on)
East/Orient	E
Editor	ED
Edward/Teddy	ED, NED
Employ	USE
Ever	EER
Essence	ATTAR

Eccentric	CAM (eccentric projection on shaft)
Father, Old Man	DA, DAD, PA, FR
Fifty, half a century	L
Five	V
Five hundred	D
Four	IV
Firm	CO (company)
Free State	SE (Saorstát Éireann)
(the) French	LE,LA
French one	Un, UNE
Fed up	DEF (fed spelt backwards)
First Rate	ai
Fast Time	Lent
For instance	EG
(on) Foot	HEEL, TOE, SHOE etc.
Fighter	MIG
Flower	Bloom, Aster
Flower	river (name)
Fast	LENT
Gee	G
Gilbert and Sullivan	GS, title or character
Girl	GAL, LASS, or ANN, SUE, etc.
Gratitude	TA
Graduate, Degree	BA,MA
Grand	M (thousand)
Go on ahead	HAT, CAP, Hair
Grass	LEA
German (town, place)	ESSEN
Gun	STEN
Hullo	HO, HI
(I) had	ID (I'd)
(He) had	HED
Hair	TRESS
Hill	TOR
(at) home	IN
(in the) house	MP
Hundred	C
Hears	EAR
Horse, nag	GG (gee-gee)
Half a century	L
Half a dozen, six	VI
Hotel, Pub	INN
Heavenly	ANGEL, STAR, PLANET
I am	IM
I claim to be	IM
Insect	ANT, FLY
I had	ID
In order	TIDY, NEAT
Invoice	SING (in voice), BILL
Judge	DI (district inspector)
Kenneth, (in short)	KEN
Knock out	KO, STUN
Laurence	LAR
Left	OVER
Let it stand	STET
Like	AS
Little Brother	BRO,BR
Love	O (tennis)
Loud	F
(Very) Loud	FF
Lubricate	OIL
Lisp	TH(S)
Last month	ULT, DEC etc.
Little by little	ERIC
Magistrate	RM, DI
Manage	RUN
Me and you	US
Mischiefous	IMP
Mother	MA
Money (little)	CENT
Melody, tune	AIR
Most	...est (superlative)
Maid(en)	MISS
Nervousness	TIC
NewYork	NY
Newt	EFT

North	N, NI (northern Ireland)
Nothing left	RIGHT
Nothing but	ALL
Number One	NOI
Nag, horse	GG
Noon	AMENDS (am ends)
Not new	USED
Orient, East	E
Old man	DA, DAD, PA
Old penny	D
Old shilling, Bob	S
One	I
On the way out	EBB
Overweight	FAT
Professional	PRO
Poetry	VERSE, ODE
(not the) principal	AGENT
Pale, Pallid	ASH
People	MEN
Pest	RAT
Piano, Soft	P
Police	CID
(old) Police	RIC
Polish	RUB
Pound	L, LB
Priest	PP, REV
Pub, Hostel	INN
Quid	L
Quote	CITE
Queue	Q
Reference	RE, REF
Relative	AUNT, NIECE
Road	RD
Roman	LATIN
Ronald	RON
Ruddy	RED
Russell George	AE
Sailor, Seaman	AB, TAR
Saint	ST
Saints	SS
Sea, See	C
Six, half a dozen	VI
Shelter	LEE
Ship	SS
Soft, Piano	P
(very)Soft	PP
Sick	ILL
South	S
South east	SE
South Africa	SA
Speed	RATE
Street	ST
Stomach	TUM
Side	TEAM, ELEVEN
Spoil	MAR
Stupid	ASS
Twisters	EELS
Teething	DRIVER (tee thing)
Time is fast'	LENT
Tea	T
Teetotaller	TT
Ten	X,IO
Thanks	TA
Thousand, Grand	M
Thus	SO
Teddy	ED, TED, NED
Tune, Melody	AIR
That is (to say)	IE
Twenty	Score
Ulster	NI
Viva Voce	ORAL
Very	...est
Well (they are not)	AIL, ILL
As you were	STET
West	W
Wine	PORT
Writer	PEN
Work	OP
X	TEN, IO
You and me	US, WE
Yours and mine	OURS