

Cryptic Logic Untangled – #1 Double Definitions

Clues of this type separate into two definitions, hence the name. You just have to work out where to split the clue. All these examples are from crosswords compiled by our own JH:

Divide bough (6) => BRANCH

Anxieties and accents (8) => STRESSES

Jammed together a bit thick (5) => DENSE

Longs to suffer pain (5) => ACHES

Bill of importance (7) => ACCOUNT

Making a hole dull (6) => BORING

Make holes in soldiers training (5) DRILL

Tugboat may extend far upwards (5) => TOWER

Incline towards grass next to the road (5) => VERGE

Drop cheese or pumpkin on NSW town (5) => SCONE

Distant domination can change the channel (6,7) => REMOTE CONTROL

Notice how both definitions are strung together in a way that reads like a single statement. This sort of misdirection is a deliberate ploy to hide the two parts in plain sight.

Sometimes:

- the definitions switch from noun to verb or adjective;
- the same answer is pronounced in two different ways;
- extra link words are added to make the clue flow more smoothly;
- definitions may be more vague or loose than you'd expect in a normal crossword.

Such are the tricks you need to see through as you parse the clue for its two component parts.

In the crossword below, all clues are of the Double Definition type.

Crossword #1 – Double Definitions

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
			10					11				
12		13										
14								15				
17												
										18		19
20				21		22						
23								24				

ACROSS

1. Bound to have made a record (5)
4. A waterfall of beer in Tassie (7)
8. Standoff in a cul de sac (7)
9. Pluck and gut a frock (5)
10. Sentence is an article of faith (10)
14. Performs passes (6)
15. Meet on the battlefield to plight a troth (6)
17. This carousel is devious (10)
20. Geographically removed in pieces (5)
22. Wasted space to no avail (7)
23. A building block in your toaster? (7)
24. More painful but angrier (5)

DOWN

1. Vacation in the fall (4)
2. Grandad noises (4)
3. Squashed like a cheap stereo's sound (9)
4. Cling and separate (6)
5. Turf the bloke! (3)
6. Hawaiian as apple pie (8)
7. Perfumes or piths? (8)
11. People who eat clients (9)
12. Play or make it again! (8)
13. Soak in cholesterol, say (8)
16. Rude precipitate (6)
18. Give birth to a carnivore (4)
19. 11-Down is a drug addict (4)
21. Letter from a golf supporter (3)

Answers

If you have any questions, or would like to receive more detailed notes on this topic, please contact John McKinnon at jmc33466@gmail.com

E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S	O	R	E	R		
T		T		E		P		R		A		E	
A	P	A	R	T		U	S	E	L	E	S	S	
E		R				R		M		B		U	
R	O	U	N	D	A	B	O	U	T				
C		T		E		A		S		N		S	
E	N	A	C	T	S		E	N	G	A	G	E	
R		S		R		E		O		C		C	
				C	O	N	V	I	C	T	I	O	N
P		S		T		A				R		E	
I	M	P	A	S	S	E		D	R	E	S	S	
R		O		I		L		O		M		S	
T	A	P	E	D		C	A	S	C	A	D	E	

Cryptic Club

This is an ongoing course that was founded by members in 2021. We share cryptic crosswords from various sources via email on a weekly basis. We also meet once a month on Zoom to solve a crossword interactively.

If you wish to join the Cryptic Club, please contact John McKinnon at the above address, or the course coordinator: Steph Wellard at stephanie.mt.wellard@gmail.com.