

Cryptic Logic Untangled – #2 Anagrams

Clues of this type are an instruction to shuffle some letters, i.e. produce an anagram, in order to get a word whose meaning is also specified. They have three parts:

- **Definition** – synonym or phrase that defines the ANSWER;
- **Signpost** – word indicating that some letters should be shuffled;
- **Fodder** – the actual letters to shuffle into the ANSWER.

Some of these examples are taken from crosswords compiled by our own JH:

Decipher her cries in **stoned fruit** (8) => CHERRIES

Attic's tidied and **unchanged** (6) => STATIC

Made better inroad into **decree** (6) => ORDAIN

Unusual bug gene found in **shrub** (7) => GEEBUNG

Dog in pack is a **dog!** (5) => DINGO

Twist about with pain then **wither away** (6) => WRITHE

Rat took carrot carefully in a **suburban four wheel drive** (6,7) => TOORAK TRACTOR

Unfortunately he starved while **the crop was brought in** (9) => HARVESTED

So I brace properly for **rhythmic exercises** (8) => AEROBICS

Sinner mixes olive with red (8) => EVILDOER

Discovering gin stirred with tonic (8) => NOTICING

A synthetic leper mixes with pony (9) => PROPYLENE

The 3 parts are joined in a way that reads like a single statement to distract the solver. Here are some rules to help you parse Anagram Clues into their 3 component parts:

- the **definition** is either at the beginning or end of the clue, **never in the middle**;
- anagram signposts are many and varied... basically they can be any word or phrase that even remotely suggests a rearrangement of the given letters:
 - sort, shuffle, ordered, sorted, resort, scrambled, scrabble, modified, amiss,
 - crazy, bananas, flaky, derelict, fraudulent, byzantine, complex, awfully, rogue,
 - broken, smashed, hammered, shattered, distressed, sabotaged, mongrel, errant;
- Fodder should supply all the letters you need in one or more words;
- The answer's letter count can help you to find the fodder;
- The signpost is always adjacent to the fodder, to its left or right;
- The fodder can be split as in the last 3 examples above;
- Extra link words can be added, definitions may be vague, words can be pronounced differently and/or changed from nouns to verbs or adjectives.

In the crossword below, all clues are of the Anagram type.

Crossword #2 – Anagrams

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. In error, to err is old-fashioned (5)
4. Deep sod crudely drummed out (7)
8. Stray asses it naps (7)
9. Property resort scare (5)
10. Fashionista's stunningly cool chance (4,6)
14. Stages snare a suspect (6)
15. Direct counterfeit payment (6)
17. Renegade who can edit \$50 reformer (5,5)
20. Sited corruption reduces consumption (5)
22. Baggage latches sabotaged (7)
23. Flat-earthers in quirky stag bar (7)
24. Hair-dye makes a bizarre siren (5)

DOWN

1. Flaky user's ploy (4)
2. Step out of bogus rite (4)
3. She may pull your leg with potato she mashed (9)
4. Mongrel pets do in the fuhrer (6)
5. EPA corrupted whistle warbler (3)
6. Roving ears need a love song (8)
7. Godforsaken toad mixed with eels (8)
11. Featherer jolted into the next world (9)
12. Agenda could be acne sprayed with lard (8)
13. A local is carefully inserted (8)
16. Assort random joints (6)
18. Inch away from the jaw (4)
19. More slippery eels (4)
21. Asp swimming in the bath (3)

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 informally once a month to chat and solve a crossword interactively.

If you wish to join the Cryptic Club, please contact John McKinnon at jmc33466@gmail.com

Answers - #2 Anagrams

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

R	A	T	B	A	G	S		R	I	N	S	E
A		N		P		T		E		I		S
D	I	E	T	S		S	A	T	C	H	E	L
N		D				A		F		C		E
E	D	I	T	H	C	O	W	A	N			
L		S		T		R		E		E		E
A	R	E	N	A	S		C	R	E	D	I	T
C		R		P		T		E		A		A
			C	O	C	O	C	H	A	N	E	L
E		R		E		P				E		O
S	I	E	S	T	A	S		A	C	R	E	S
U		I		S		E		E		E		E
R	E	T	R	O		D	E	P	O	S	E	D