

Cryptic Logic Untangled – #3 Charades

Like the popular game, Charade clues break the answer up into a sequence of chunks. There is a definition for each chunk, as well as a definition for the whole answer.

These examples are taken from crosswords compiled by U3A's JH:

Bobby swindles set of figures (9) => cons + table => CONSTABLE

Amphibian faeces or fungus? (9) => toad + stool => TOADSTOOL

Recall eye movement with glowing coal (8) => R. E. M. + ember => REMEMBER

Insect runs away to marry slender ruminants (9) => ant + elopes => ANTELOPES

Plunges from smell of disreputable nightclubs (9) => nose + dives => NOSEDIVES

Frog in the hollow is a Yorkshire dish => toad + in the + hole => TOAD IN THE HOLE

A bread roll moves to music in profusion => a + bun + dance => ABUNDANCE

Bismarck named after cigarette is a bassoon (7) => otto + fag => FAGOTTO

Nobleman follows leader in census => count + head => HEADCOUNT

Comments:

- the **whole-word definition** is at the beginning or end of the clue, never in the middle.
- Some answers use **actual words from the clue**. These are called **literals**.
- In the first 7 examples, the chunks are defined in their correct order.
- In the last 2, the order of chunks is switched but there are **signposts** to indicate that.

Other ways of defining charade chunks include:

- **Symbols:** chemical elements, music notes, compass points, Roman numerals, NATO alphabet, card suits, chess notation, vitamins, blood groups, algebra, units of measure
- **Abbreviations or acronyms:** PIN, ID, Pty, Co, SOS, Ms, Fr, ca, ps, ad, RIP, IRA
- **Words from another language:** un, eins, uno, das, les, los, gli, hola, oui, adios
- **Classics:** AB/TAR sailor, ET alien, OP work, ANT worker, CHE rebel, OO rings/glasses, E/H drug, ON working, IN trendy, ED media boss, I one, SS ship, NT/OT books (bible), ADAM/EVE first man/woman, MP, PM, LIB politician.

Good man with one German beer glass (5) => st + ein => STEIN

Fundamental tax report 99 (5) => BAS + IC => BASIC

US city order with books flickering (7) => LA + MBE + NT => LAMBENT

Detective, I am an alien the queen bore (8) => D + I am + ET + ER => DIAMETER

Anaemic secretary with novices credentials (6) => pa + LL + id => PALLID

Jazz 10 in Paris that is set down (9) => dix + ie + land => DIXIELAND

Point energy measurement pole for woofs (6) => W + e + ft + S => WEFTS

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

Crossword #3 – Charades

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. Boss bumped into heavenly body (5)
4. Holds toboggan under pressure (7)
8. Charms finish lobes (7)
9. Distance behind is dismal (5)
10. The box, the Maori, the French dream (10)
14. 6 points plunge in salad green (6)
15. Gold ship that is Australian (6)
17. Angry woman shares posers like this (5,5)
20. Old Mexican alphabet technology (5)
22. Tackiness to oversized skin patterns (7)
23. Time wind up Rhode Island line offshoot (7)
24. Southern toilet pressure in sailboat (5)

DOWN

1. Cook carbon with helium failure (4)
2. Produced crazy vitamin (4)
3. Thieves blue-green roof overhangs (9)
4. Rush owns a TV channel (6)
5. Small notice is unhappy (3)
6. Left spooky street being most suspicious (8)
7. French preposition called media boss loopy (8)
11. One sister goes out with floods (9)
12. Fondness for a prison song (8)
13. Sheeran my French heavyweight in Canadian city (8)
16. Berserk after aluminium (6)
18. Work habits – junior officer's self esteem (4)
19. Immediately a numpty (4)
21. Vehicle's about right (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 - #3 Charades

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

T	E	N	D	R	I	L	S	L	O	P
A		J	E	A	A	O				N
S	O	O	T	A	T	C	T	E	Z	A
A		M	A	S						H
			S	R	D	S	W	O	S	C
D		T		N	P	E		M		N
E	N	D	I	V	E		A	U	S	E
G			E	N	N	A				P
N			I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T
A		R			T	L		E		F
R					S	R	E	A	R	E
E					A	A		E		H
C	O	M	E	T	H	A	S	S	L	E