

Cryptic Logic Untangled – #4 Homophones

Homophone clues have 2 definitions, one of which defines a word that sounds like the answer but is spelled differently. All together then, Homophone Clues have 3 parts:

- **Definition of the answer** – synonym or phrase;
- **Signpost** – word indicating that there is a sound-alike;
- **Definition of the homophone** – synonym or phrase.

These examples are from crosswords compiled by JH:

It's said grey tapes are **endangered animals** (5,4) => GREAT APES

Interferes to get **gold or silver I hear** (7) => MEDDLES [medals]

Sounds spacious but it's **painful** (6) => RHEUMY [roomy]

It's a Dog, they say, "Treat it cruelly!" (7) => WHIPPET [whip it]

Personal transporter was **a smooth transition verbally** (6) => SEGWAY [segue]

Nitpicking or **noisily chopping rabbits in half?** (9,5) => SPLITTING HAIRS [hares]

Rules for parsing Homophone Clues into their 3 component parts:

- the **definition of the answer** is either at the beginning or end, **never in the middle**;
- signposts are anything remotely suggesting sound, noise, speech or hearing:
 - said, spoken, announced, told, reported, I say, we hear, heard, echo, caught,
 - in audition, on air, on the phone, broadcast, over the air waves, parrot, podcast;
- The signpost is always adjacent to the soundlike definition, on its left or right;
- If that puts a signpost in the middle of the clue, use the letter-count or intersecting letters to tell which definition is the answer and which is the homophone;
- The homophone definition may be literal, i.e. the actual words to be said rather than a synonym, as in the 1st example above, but this is unusual;
- Sounding "alike" can be interpreted rather loosely and playfully by setters.

COCKNEY clues are a variation on the sound-alike theme. They play on the East-ender's habit of dropping Hs in speech:

Bundle is **detrimental to Cockneys** (6) => ARMFUL [harmful]

Shelters in the East End's leafy glades (7) => ARBOURS [harbours]

Vintage to 'ave in 'is 'and (3) => OLD [hold]

Cockney clues are usually signposted with **Cockney** or **East End** or **Londoner**... but the signpost can be omitted if the clue drops some Hs, as in the 3rd example above.

In the crossword below, all clues are of the Homophone or Cockney type.

Crossword #4 – Homophones

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
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ACROSS

1. Rice dish mouthed incontinent hilarity (5)
4. Pile of bark to a cockney tapster (7)
8. Soon as an 'ippy 'aircut (7)
9. Outspoken talk-show host in musical theatre? (5)
10. Paper items read aloud are not moving (10)
14. An eel called the dance (6)
15. Utter cannibal act for Fu who? (6)
17. Alderman addressed a lawyer (10)
20. Brings in tea services on the radio (5)
22. Flirty college student voiced solidarities (7)
23. Blunder reported vegan's lament (7)
24. Faculty announced small change (5)

DOWN

1. Look into architectural supporter podcast (4)
2. Sneer at quoted Shakespearean king (4)
3. Not the back ears, so to speak, in borderlines (9)
4. Makes children, I've heard, from French bread rolls (6)
5. Carnival city in steel for concrete echoes (3)
6. Cockney raised turf worn by pirates (8)
7. Mammal purported to braid a cat (8)
11. Prayer rooms for nightmare conservatives in East London (9)
12. I call audibly for dessert (8)
13. Asks where people sing together in audition (8)
16. Verbally scratches legal stipulation (6)
18. This animal, I say, ain't tellin' the truth (4)
19. Church passage articulated in a tropical paradise (4)
21. Acoustic trauma in Jamaican pop music (3)

