

## Cryptic Logic Untangled – #5 Reversals and Hiddens

**Reversals** are simply words written backwards. These clues have 3 parts:

- A **straight definition** of the answer (at either the start or end of the clue);
- A reversed definition of the answer. This may be either the answer itself (**literal**), or a definition of the answer written backwards (**synonym**) or a **mixture** of the two.
- A **signpost** that somehow suggests reversal.

**Tessa reversed the advantage** (5) => ASSET

**Perversely confronted low octane brew** (5) => faced => DECAF

**Snug grandad backfired toy weapons** (7) => snug pop => POPGUNS

**Westbound gnus crooned** (4) => SUNG

**French philosopher raised a lemony spice** (5) => sumac => CAMUS

- The last 2 examples have context-sensitive signposts. **Westbound** implies reversal in an Across clue. **Raised** implies reversal in a Down clue;
- other possible signposts for reversal include:
  - about, reflected, spun, rejected, recoil, sent back, wheeled, retrograde,
  - from the east, leftwards, westward, heading west, right-to-left,
  - rising, climbing, northwards, from the south, upended, rampant, topsy-turvy.

**Palindromes** are a special case of reversal where a word or phrase is the same both forwards and backwards. Clues for palindromes require only a single definition and a signpost that indicates bi-directionality:

**Fast vehicle in forward or reverse** (7) => RACECAR

**It spins both ways** (7) => ROTATOR

**Hidden** clues contain the actual answer embedded as a **literal** in the clue, often spread across word-breaks to make it harder to find:

**Cows hiding in shoebox ensemble** (4) => OXEN

**Sharpen tag onslaught to conceal US Military Dept** (8) => PENTAGON

**Insect nursed by gallantry** (3) => ANT

**Gem from constituents of Aston Electorate** (5) => STONE

Possible signposts for Hiddens (notice how small and easily missed some of these can be):

- in, of, from, some of, characters in, not entirely, essential to, hiding, concealed by,
- stashed, buried, fragment, visible in, nursing, harbouring, amid, among, secreted.

**Reversed Hidden** clues have the embedded answer spelled backwards:

**Homicide turned up in cloistered rumba** (6) => MURDER

**Fluffy got fossil extract reviewed** (4) => SOFT

**NB:** There must be signposts for both the **reversal** and **hidden** actions.

*In the crossword below, all clues are of the Reversal, Palindrome or Hidden type.*

## Crossword #5 – Reversals and Hidden

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
			10					11				
12		13										
14							15					
						16						
17												
									18		19	
20				21		22						
23								24				

### ACROSS

- Model a boomerang fabulist (5)
- Rap a hint recalling sound of little feet (3-1-3)
- Brazilian snob upset good evening in Paris (7)
- First A-bomber's mum returns alone (5)
- Zippy cola question in the mirror? (2,3,5)
- Sip a kola extract left for giraffes (6)
- Essentially, Pablo used her shirt (6)
- They make yachts faster both ways (5,5)
- Cow in grass fencing overdue (5)
- Members of gang, or rascally rabbits? (7)
- Blew his top nursed by his team editor (7)
- Send back stopwatch (5)

In this crossword, there are:

- 3 Palindromes
- 14 Reversals
- 7 Forward Hidden
- 2 Reversed Hidden

### DOWN

- Either way, it's a pop group (4)
- Dogs in, God's keeping chant (4)
- Knits hoop rose in Hundred Acre Wood smell (4,5)
- Divided up in cadet rapport (6)
- Scots to devour turnover (3)
- Gulp coil up, it keeps the water in (4,4)
- Hot ram in ermine hides a grape (8)
- Regal slip turned up a German beer (4,5)
- Runup ends cannabis for best venues (3,5)
- Discharge cheese backwards, squeezed it in (4,4)
- Prize for upside-down sketcher (6)
- Upmarket public transport (4)
- Hey! Cops stab constituents (4)
- Chewy twisted face (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](mailto:jmc33466@gmail.com)

## Answers - #5 Reversals and Hiddens

*If you have any questions, or would like to receive more detailed notes on this topic, please contact John McKinnon at [jmc33466@gmail.com](mailto:jmc33466@gmail.com)*

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