

Cryptic Logic Untangled – #6 Codes for Selection & Deletion

Codes are formulas, like very simple “spy” codes, e.g. use the first letter of every word or delete every second letter. They are a mechanical way of cutting up pieces of the clue to assemble the answer.

Selecting Letters from specific positions in words:

- City having *foremost of* roles in *Olympics* (3) => RIO [First letters of words]
- Short *baby* struck symptoms *heartily* (6) => ABRUPT [Middle letters of words]
- Tails of* pink cockatoo, guinea fowl, rosella, and *marsupial* (5) => KOALA [Last letters]
- Divide big healthy apples *in thirds* (3) => GAP [3rd letters of words]
- Flavours *take things by halves* (5) => TANGS [select/delete Half of each word]

Deleting Letters from specific positions in words:

- Heartless* Für *Elise* is *liberated* (4) => FREE [Delete middle letters]
- Skinless* *hyena* *hankering* (3) => YEN [Delete outer letters]
- Pirate a *headless* *hook* (4) => HOOK [Delete first letter]
- Schedule *bottomless* *table* (5) => TABLE [Delete last letter]

Select or Delete Alternate Letters:

- Voracious? *Gorge* feed?, *Aye*, *regularly* (6) => GREEDY [Select alternate letters]
- Even in* bad times they'll give you money (4) => ATMS [Select even letters]
- Marsupial's* wool mob rants *oddly* (6) => WOMBAT [Select odd letters]
- Gaming house *drops odds* in a clay soil *neek* (6) => CASINO [Delete odd letters]

Mixing different codes together: (quite rare)

- 24 hours from *December 1st*, *January 2nd* and *May 3rd* (3) => DAY [Use each numbered letter]
- Pendant from *faceless* *lock* with *gutless* *exit* (6) => LOCKET [Delete first, then middle]
- Exposed* agony eater *pitted* as a *lost cause* (5) => GONER [Delete outer then middle letters]

Codes applied to Synonyms (rather than literals): (only simple codes on single words)

- Musical notes, *allegro*, *mostly* (3) => *FAS*F => FAS [Delete last letter]
- Telegram *needs no intro* to be *competent* (4) => €*ABLE* => ABLE [Delete first letter]

Code clues have 3 parts:

- A **straight definition** of the answer (at either the start or end of the clue);
- A **signpost** that indicates a code for selecting or deleting;
- Some fodder on which to apply the code... or a **synonym** for the fodder

[Clues that mix 2 or more codes will have extra fodder and signpost(s)]

Code signposts are many and varied but you'll see a reasonable selection of them in the crossword below, where all clues are of Code types.

Crossword #6 – Codes

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. American tap drops its third aspect (5) *
4. Media lot skins midriff of reset for cross, terrier or falcon (7) **
8. Scourges new men see so endlessly (7)
9. Whipped scab loners' under-bellies (5)
10. Even Oprah chews pesto theory as an influencer (10)
14. Sexy Dot's pics exposed as glamorous (6)
15. Spotted green resin paper clips are older by thirds (6)
17. Concocted flabby raincoat to end oddly (10)
20. Faceless breeds of oboes and horns (5)
22. Authorize bisections of legend Dior sets (7)
23. Error of fuel rush interleaved slate layers (7)
24. Pardon essential eremite (5)

NB: Most codes here are applied to literals in the clue but 3 require you to find a synonym first and then apply a code to it *

There is also 1 instance of mixed codes **

DOWN

1. Discover if I even smoked butts (4)
2. Ransack cases of my best capitals (4)
3. Maestro ate most scant minis topless and bottomless (9)
4. Fooled Maori shell echoed in the wings (6)
5. Varnish ingredient in feet of evil aroma panic (3)
6. Genius design as steel isn't oddly deficient (8)
7. Golden city held for Dad to blow tops (2,7)
11. Cockney's headless beast fender (9)
12. Occasionally I see half-hairy ears Bosun (8)
13. Ransom brewer hero by halves for a hat (8)
16. Pat scared USSR off-limits (6)
18. Stuff gutless milk-fat (4) *
19. Protein omelette, well baked, stews in seconds (4)
21. No-frills doorman for that lady (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 - #6 Codes

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	O	F	E	R	S		R	E	M	I	T
E	R	H	S								A
R	E	E	D	S							E
A	R										M
F	A	B	R	I	C	A	T	E	D		
A	M										O
E	X	O	T	I	C						D
S	S										A
											R
D	B										O
N	E	M	E	S	E	S					D
I	O										L
F	A	C	E	T							E