THE TIMES

COMPUTER

C
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WORDS
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VOLUME 6

The Times Computer Crosswords – Volume 6
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INTRODUCTION by David Akenhead (Author of The Times Computer Crossword)

We are pleased to present our latest addition to the series, and I hope you will derive as much pleasure from this collection as from Volume 5.

I am for ever entertaining suggestions as to how the Computer Crossword can be enhanced, and in the new Team facility you will witness one such innovation. Effectively I have added an entirely new dimension to the concept. Many readers wrote to me asking for a means to be included whereby people could compete with each other. I hope that the new software range on disc fulfils that requirement. I shall be eager to know your reactions to it. My aim has been to introduce an element of strategy, as is found in Chess, for example, whereby the crossword grid is seen as a field of activity wherein players compete with words or word parts to accumulate points as well as knowledge.

Foreword by John Grant (Editor of *The Times* Crossword)

Any idea that the Crossword Editor of The Times is omniscient is mistaken. He is simply one of ten compilers who lives on the wits of the other nine.

There are, I think, no topical allusions among the clues in the following puzzles that will require elucidation; they are so apt to become meaningless, and their currency is so uncertain, that they are better avoided altogether.

The best help for the solver, besides the conventions hinted at in the software, remains the dictionary. The English language is so flexible, not to say contradictory, that Humpty-Dumpty may be forgiven for insisting that any words he used meant just what he chose them to mean. Our compilers are not as arbitrary as that, but unfamiliar or surprising meanings are grist to their mill. Somewhere among the following puzzles, for example, it is necessary to know that the word "kitchen" is slang for the percussion department of an orchestra; otherwise the clue may remain an enigma.

Other volumes include:-

Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords
by Edmund Akenhead, former Editor of *Times* Crosswords

The devices used by a cryptic crossword compiler are so many and varied that an introduction such as this can only give the beginner a glimpse of them. Experience will prove the best teacher, but I hope that the following tips will help the beginner in his first steps towards mastering *The Times* (and similar) crosswords.

The best known device is the anagram. "Terribly angered" is a definition of the answer "enraged", which is also an anagram of "angered", the word "Terribly" being used in the clue as an anagram indicator. The solver should always be on the look-out for words suggesting arrangement, change, wrongness, confusion, strangeness and the like which may point to anagrams in the clue: "new" is sometimes used, also "sort" and "out" (in the sense of "wrong"), while "perhaps", "maybe", and "possibly" will probably indicate anagrams. Then there are words which have different meanings: "refuse" in a clue may appear to be a verb meaning "decline", but it may really mean the noun meaning "rubbish": "tent" may mean not a canvas shelter, but a Spanish wine: "saw" or "gnome" may mean a maxim. Solving crosswords certainly helps to enlarge one's vocabulary. All sorts of words have hidden meanings in crosswords with "do" clued as a party, "letter" as a landlord, "number" as an anaesthetic (that which numbs) and so ad infinitum, the oldest chestnut being "flower" as a river, while "sewer" may mean a sempstress and "cover for a sewer" will mean not a manhole but a thimble, and "tour de France" means not a cycle race but the Eiffel Tower.

Many a crossword answer is made up of other words indicated by the clue. "Loudly disapprove royal skating display? Some reservations here (7-5)" is solved by joining up Boo-king off-ice, while Mild-red is well known as a girl with slightly communist sympathies. A word may consist of one word containing another (En), and there are many other ways in which words (including abbreviations) may be combined either in their normal, or in anagrammatic or reversed forms to make the answer. In such "build-ups" the word "river" may well refer to one of the compiler's favourite British waterways – Dee, Exe, Fal or Ure (tributary of the Yorkshire Ouse).

Solvers should be familiar with many common abbreviations, such as e.g., i.e., the points of the compass N.S.E.W. (sometimes clued as bridge players), musical notes A to G (or doh, re, mi, etc) and Roman numerals M, D, C, L, X, V, I. The clue "1,200 less 200 (10)" needs conversion into Roman numerals "MCC less CC" and anyone interested in cricket will know that the M in MCC stands for Marylebone. Chemical abbreviations for elements are sometimes used such as "au" (gold), "ag" (silver), "fe" (iron) etcetera. The letter L could be clued as money (pound sign), 50, lake, or as student, tyro, novice or learner (driver with L plates). Solvers are also expected to know simple words in the more familiar foreign languages, particularly the articles, e.g. el (clued as "the Spanish"), un ("a French") etc.

Finally, to mention four other types of clue: (a) Hidden answer clue (Cs) "Something more in the next race (5)", here the answer "extra" appears in consecutive letters in the clue ("ne*xt ra*ce"). (b) Straight quotation, requiring the solver to supply the missing word or words (nothing cryptic about this type of clue). (c) "Sound" clues (Sd) with sound-indicators such as "say", "we hear", "it's said", or "sound" telling the solver to look to the sound of the words used. "Some measure of spirit? I say! (5)" gives the answer "optic" (optic measures used in bars). "Say" in the clue tells the solver to look to the sound of "I", that is "eye". (d) The acronym (Ac), or word made from the initial letters of other words.

An ounce of practical demonstration being worth a pound of theory, I set out below explanations of every clue in the first puzzle in this collection. Some may wish to try the puzzle first without this "crib".

The Times Computer Crossword – Volume 6, Puzzle No 1

Analysis

Across

1A Often does badly but gets decorated (9)
Solution	FESTOONED
Indicator	An
Explanation	Anagram of "often does"

6A Like a little house here? (5)
Solution	ASCOT
Indicator	Du
Explanation	AS plus COT

9A A reason for ill-feeling yet again (7)
Solution	RELAPSE
Indicator	Cd
Explanation	None needed

10A Transport as is right and fitting by river (7)
Solution	RAPTURE
Indicator	Du
Explanation	R plus APT plus URE (river)

11A A poet, though unfamiliar as yet (5)
Solution	YATES
Indicator	An
Explanation	Anagram of "as yet"

12A Tears of the inexperienced person one criticizes (9)
Solution	LACERATES
Indicator	Du
Explanation	L is an abbreviation for learner or "inexperienced person" ACE is "one" plus RATES (criticizes)

13A He may stop playing! (8)
Solution	ORGANIST
Indicator	Cd
Explanation	Obvious

15A Pound note remains (4)
Solution	BASH
Indicator	Du
Explanation	B (musical note) plus ASH (remains)

19A Leaves many a bird (4)
Solution	TEAL
Indicator	Du
Explanation	As in TEA Leaves

20A Act in a less restrained way and cause confusion (8)
Solution	BEWILDER
Indicator	Du
Explanation	BE plus WILDER

23A The kind of day Zinoviev might have written off? (3-6)
Solution	RED-LETTER
Indicator	Ru
Explanation	The association is evident

24A Old people need one nice break (5)
Solution	ICENI
Indicator	An
Explanation	Anagram of I (one) and "nice"

26A Slight scrap in the queue (7)
Solution	FRAGILE
Indicator	En
Explanation	FILE about RAG

27A Telephone about the duck – dry and going bad (7)
Solution	ROTTING
Indicator	En
Explanation	O (duck) and TT (teetotal or "dry") inside RING

28A In speech, canvass support (5)
Solution	EASEL
Indicator	Do
Explanation	There are two meanings to "canvass support" in the clue!

29A Inset paragraph or it has a divisive effect (9)
Solution	SEPARATOR
Indicator	Du
Explanation	SET plus PARA "inset" plus OR

Down

1D A carrier going from one bank to another (5-4)
Solution	FERRY-BOAT
Indicator	Cd
Explanation	None needed

2D Roman dictator given total American backing (5)
Solution	SULLA
Indicator	Re
Explanation	Reversal of ALL US

3D Take work modelling, though it's not in agreement (8)
Solution	OPPOSING
Indicator	Du
Explanation	OP (work) plus POSING

4D Sewers, a quarter being superfluous (8)
Solution	NEEDLESS
Indicator	Du
Explanation	NEEDLES are "sewers" and S is a "quarter" (compass point)

5D Plain-spoken guide (6)
Solution	DIRECT
Indicator	Do
Explanation	None needed

6D A famous physicist and a politician before (6)
Solution	AMPERE
Indicator	Du
Explanation	A MP plus ERE (before)

7D Awfully curt cad or knave perhaps (5-4)
Solution	COURT-CARD
Indicator	An
Explanation	Anagram of "curt cad or"

4

8D Hair in distressing condition (5)
Solution   TRESS
Indicator   Cs
Explanation   disTRESSing

14D They are in charge of wards (9)
Solution   GUARDIANS
Indicator   Cd
Explanation   None necessary

16D "The evening star, Love's — " (Milton) (9)
Solution   HARBINGER
Indicator   Qu
Explanation   Paradise Lost XI.588

17D Sad outcome of rent reduction (8)
Solution   TEARDROP
Indicator   Du
Explanation   TEAR (rent) plus DROP (reduction)

18D Get up late! (8)
Solution   DISINTER
Indicator   Cd
Explanation   Elementary!

21D A story told in parts of Israel maybe (6)
Solution   SERIAL
Indicator   An
Explanation   Anagram of "Israel"

22D Strain to find way about the ship (6)
Solution   STRESS
Indicator   Du
Explanation   ST (way) plus RE (about) plus SS (ship)

23D General carrying the sovereign's weapon (5)
Solution   RIFLE
Indicator   En
Explanation   RIFE (General) about L (sovereign)

25D Are no longer first (5)
Solution   EXIST
Indicator   Du
Explanation   Ex (no longer) plus Ist

General Loading Instructions

1. For Acorn BBC Master 128 5.25 disc (ADFS)
   For Master Compact and Electron 3.5 disc
   For Archimedes 3.5 disc

   Insert your disc. To start the program depress the SHIFT key, and whilst holding the SHIFT
   key down press and release BREAK. Finally release the SHIFT key.

2. For Acorn BBC Model B 5.25 disc 80 track (DFS)
   For Model B 5.25 disc 40 track double sided (DFS)
   N.B. Side A contains puzzles 1-29
         Side B contains puzzles 30-60

   Insert your disc and type CH."TIMESX"
   The introductory page appears and then you will be asked to insert the puzzle number of
   your choice. Provided that number exists the corresponding puzzle will be loaded.

3. For BBC Master, Model B and Electron cassette – (Volumes 1 to 3 only)

   Each side of the cassette contains 30 crosswords. Side A nos 1-30 and Side B 31-60. The
   program is also on both sides. To load the program type CH.""
   A title page will be loaded followed by the main program. It is suggested that the
   crosswords are attempted sequentially and after a particular crossword has been loaded that
   you note the position shown by your footage counter. The next time you attempt a crossword
   after loading the program, you can fastforward to the recorded position, thereby decreasing
   the searchtime required.

4. For Amstrad CPC 464 cassette – (Volumes 1 to 3 only)
   To load the program type RUN "TIMES"

5. For Amstrad CPC 464, 664, 6128 3″ systems
   Insert disc and type RUN "TIMES"

6. For Amstrad PCW 8256, 8512, 9512 3″ systems
   Load CPM then A>TIMES

7. For Amstrad 1640, 1512 and IBM compatible 5.25 disc systems
   Load DOS then A>TIMES

8. For Nimbus, IBM and Amstrad 3.5 disc systems
   Load DOS then A>TIMES

9. For Spectrum cassette – (Volumes 1 to 3 only)
   Type LOAD""

10. For Atari ST, Commodore Amiga
    Boot up then Double click <TIMES>

How to use the Program

The program has been carefully designed on four levels so as to meet the needs of all crossword solvers. **Level 1**, the highest level, should provide hours of hitherto unequalled competitive stimulus, whether you are of championship status, or like me, an average solver who spends the best part of a train journey at it, with occasional success.

Level 2 allows you the choice of either marking the clue or attempting the solution; whereupon correct letters appear in upper case on the grid together with incorrect letters in lower case.

For those new to cryptic crosswords, **Level 3** offers a clue to the workings of the compiler's mind in the form of a convention indicator, the key to which is revealed in the glossary of terms (page 12). *An – for instance – denotes an anagram in the clue, thereby saving time and helping the solver.

Level 4 is for beginners. The first letter of the solution is printed on the grid automatically. This makes the task of solving the puzzle very much easier.

These are by no means the only stimuli available. The special marking system allows clues to be addressed any number of times. Clues may be cancelled at any stage except at Solution Entry. Previously solved clues may be re-addressed for cross reference purposes. Further, should the clue prove too baffling, the computer can solve it for you. Effectively, then, the game becomes a contest between you and the computer as to who can resolve the greatest number of clues at the highest possible level in the shortest possible time, points being awarded according to level.

I wish you hours of enjoyment!   David Akenhead

Team Facility

There is also a Team option (on disc only) which allows you to compete with other crossword solvers as well as the computer. Two teams, A and B, select the crossword of their choice. Team members must make alternate attempts at solutions. Should an undesirable clue be selected, it may be cancelled at no penalty by pressing the C key. Once a solution is attempted, however, points may be awarded (or deducted) and the initiative passed to the other side. The crossword assumes a strategical dimension, and the winning team is that with the highest number of points at the conclusion of the crossword.

Crossword Instructions

Upon completion of the loading instructions as directed you are offered the option to include sound. Press the S key for Sound or the N key for No Sound. The screen clears and the words "Assembling crossword" appear. The name of the crossword you have chosen is 'typed' out by the computer and the crossword follows. Finally the score line, set to 0, is printed upper right.

The assembly instruction disappears, the invisible clock starts, and hereon it's up to you.

The instruction "Insert clue number" appears. Enter the clue number of your choice and press RETURN. If there are two possible clues the player is prompted to specify whether "Across A or Down D", the choice being made at the press of the desired key. If the clue exists it is displayed, otherwise the text screen clears and reverts back to the earlier instruction. A number of choices are now open to you. If you don't like the look of the clue you have chosen is to return to the address position by pressing 'C', or you may proceed. The words "Help? Y/N" appear on the text screen lower right. The program will only respond to 'Y' or 'N' being pressed. If 'N' is pressed the player is asked to enter the necessary letters. If the number of letters is incorrect the instruction if repeated. Provided the solution is correct in its entirety, pressing RETURN will enter it in the grid and 50 points are accumulated to the player's score; conversely, the grid stays blank at no penalty, (apart from the time lost) to the player. At this level no computer assistance is available.

If 'Y' is pressed, the program proceeds to **Level 2**, a marker option if the form "Marker? Y/N". The idea here is to offer the maximum degree of flexibility to the solver. Should you not like the clue, and prefer to try another instead, you may mark your clue by pressing 'Y'. An instruction follows to enter the requisite number of letters or employ chevrons – SHIFT > – to mark those parts of the solution which are unknown. Pressing the RETURN key subsequently enters the information on the grid. Should the clue be solved at this level 40 points are awarded.

If the player presses 'N' the computer assumes that further assistance with the existing clue is required. The program continues to **Level 3**, printing a convention indicator after the clue. The words "Clue 2? Y/N" appear. If 'N' is pressed the player is offered the chance of computer assistance in the form "Solution desired? Y/N". If 'N' is pressed the player may either attempt the solution or mark it as previously. No penalty is incurred, and the clue may be re-addressed as and when required. Should the player prefer to attempt the solution, correct letters will be printed in upper case and incorrect ones in lower case. Again, there is no penalty. When correct, 30 points accrue to the player's score at this level. Conversely, if 'Y' is pressed the computer solves the clue and 30 points are deducted from the player's score. The same penalty applies to the next level of play.

If further help is required **Level 4** allows the first letter of the solution to be printed in the grid. A solution at this level is worth 10 points. The precedure is as for **Level 3**.

A clue may be cancelled at any stage except the Solution Entry stage and, for cross-reference purposes, previously solved clues may be re-addressed at any time. Should a non-existent clue number be entered the computer will alert you to your error and reset to the address position.

If you wish to stop the program you can leave it by pressing the RETURN key on its own in the address position. The words "Quit Y/N" appear on the text screen lower right. This is a failsafe device used to offset accidental pressing of the return key which would otherwise terminate the puzzle. Should the puzzle be completed, a sound signal is emitted. The text screen clears to reveal an analysis of the player's performance in terms of the time taken, the number of clues solved by both player and computer, the score and an assessment of the same in the categories – 'Beginner', 'Average', 'Good', 'Very Good' and 'Expert'. The player is offered the option of viewing the entire solution, before proceeding to the final page which offers a choice between selecting a new puzzle or leaving the program. Should you decide on the latter option and your system employs ADFS do remember that in order to retrieve your disc facility you must switch off your computer and then switch it back on.

A puzzle can only be completed by calling up every clue and answering it satisfactorily. The program has been written in such a way that once a clue has been attempted at a certain level, it is not possible to re-address that clue at a higher level.

Abbreviations

The following is a list of the most common abbreviations and pointers employed in puzzles, in alphabetical order. In addition, remember the common abbreviations of the months and days of the week, as well as the London Postal Districts, political parties, American States, and music notes which I have not included.   DA

A Article/Associate
AB Able seaman – Sailor
AC Account – Bill/Aircraftman Alternating Current
ACE One – Pilot – Expert – 1
AD Advert – Notice – Publicity/Anno Domini
ADO Fuss/A Party
AG Silver
AI First class
ALA In the style/manner of
AM Morning
AMP Current
ANT Worker
APE Monkey – Imitate
AU Gold/to the French
AVE Welcome/Avenue
AY Yes/Ever

B Black (pencil marking)/Born/Bye/Bowled/Second grade
BA Bachelor of Arts – Graduate – Degree/British Airways
BC Before Christ
BE Live
BR British Rail/British
BRA Supporter – Female supporter

C 100 (Rn)/Centigrade/Cold/Cent/Caught/Third (Grade & Row)/Circa – About/Many/Chapter
CA Chartered Accountant
CAN Tin – Preserve
CAT Tom
CC Cricket Club/County Council
CE Church (of England)
CH Church/Companion of Honour
CI Channel Islands
CID Detectives
CINC Commander in Chief
CM Centimetre
CO Commanding Officer/Company – Firm/Care of/County

COL Army Officer
COLE Old King
CON Study
CR Credit
CU Copper

D 500 (Rn)/Penny/Daughter/Died/Date/Many
DA District Attorney
DC Direct current
DD Doctor of Divinity – Doctor – Theologian – Divine
DE Of French
DEN Study
DER The German
DO Party/Act
DR Doctor/Debit
DU Of the French

E East/Point/Way/Energy/Egghead/English
EAR Listener
ED Editor – Newsman/Edward
EER Always – Ever
EG For example
EL The Spanish
END Close – Purpose – Aim
ENEMY Time
EP Extended play record
ER Elizabeth Regina – Queen/Hesitation
ERE Before
ES French art (as in 'tu es')
ET Extra Terrestrial/And French
ETA Estimated time of arrival
EX From – Out of – Former (Husband/Wife)

F Fahrenheit/Loud (F & FF)/Fellow/Fine
FA Football Association
FAG Drudge
FBI G-Men – Federal Agents
FC Football Club

FO Foreign Office/Flying Officer
FR French – Franc/Father
FT Foot – Feet

G Gram – Gramme/Gravity Gateshead/Grand/German leader
GB Great Britain – British
GEN Information/General
GG Horse
GI Soldier
GO Energy
GMEN FBI agents
GP General Practitioner – Doctor
GR King – King George
GRAND A lot of dollars ($1000)
GRANT General (also LEE)

H Hot/Hydrogen/Hard (pencil marking)/Hospital
HA Laugh
HACK Literary drudge
HAL Harry
HAT Bowler
HB Hard black (pencil marking)
HE His/Her Excellency – Ambassador/Male
HEAD Poll/Boss
HEN Bird – Layer
HIC This Roman
HM His/Her Majesty
HO House/Home Office
HP Hire purchase/Horse power
HQ Headquarters
HR Hour
HY Henry

I One – First – First person
IC In charge
ICE Diamonds
IE Id est (that is)
IM I am
IN Inch(es)/Fashionable/At home
INC Incorporated
INST Current month
IOM Isle of Man
IOU Promise to pay
IQ Intelligence quotient
IRA Terrorists
IS Lives/Island
IT Sex-Appeal

JACK Sailor – Seaman
JP Justice of the Peace – Law
JR Junior

K 1000 – Kilo/King – Monarch
KO Knock-out

L Left/Fifty (Rn)/Pound/Latin/
Learner – Novice – Beginner –
Student
LA Los Angeles/There in France
LATE Deceased
LB Pound
LC Lower case
LE The French (also LA)
LEG Supporter
LINE Railway
LING Heather
LIST Lean/Catalogue
LO Behold – See
LOW Depressed/Moo
LP Long playing record
LSO London Symphony Orchestra
LT Lieutenant – Officer
LTA Lawn Tennis Association

M Monsieur (Fr)/1000 (Rn)/ Male/
Metre/Mile/Million/Many/Mo-
torway/Married

MA Mother/Master of Arts
Graduate
MAC Scot
MAL French complaint
MASS Service/Crowd
MB Doctor (Bach. of Medicine)
MCC Cricket Club (Marylebone)
MD Doctor (Doct. of Medicine)
MI Motorway
MIT Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
MISS Girl
MN Merchant Navy
MO Doctor
MP Politican – Member/Military
Police – Redcap(s)
MPH Miles per hour
MS Manuscript – Writing

N North – Point – Way – Pole/
Name
NATIVE Oyster
NB Nota bene/No ball
NCO Non-commissioned officer
NE North East
NI Northern Ireland
NO Number
NT New Testament/Nat. Trust
NUM Miner's Union
NUR Rail Union
NUS Students' Union/Seaman's
Union
NW North West
NZ New Zealand

O Nothing/Circle/Ring/Round/
Love
OB Old Boy
OBE Decoration – Honour
OK All right
ON Performing
OP Operation/Work
OR Alternative/Gold
OS Outsize – Large

OT Old Testament
OUT Abroad
OWN Confess – Admit
OZ Ounce

P Quiet/Parking/Page/Piano
PA Father
PAR Equal – Normal/Paragraph
PAN Young Peter/Vessel
PAT Irishman/boy
PC Police Constable – Bobby/Cop-
per – Cop/Postcard
PEN Writer/Swan
PER Through/Each
PHD Doctor/Degree
PI Page one/Pious/Letter from
Greece
PM Prime Minister/Afternoon
PO Post Office/Postal order/Petty
Officer/Pilot Officer
POLL Head
POP Uncle (Pawnbroker)
PORT Left
POT Trophy
POW Prisoner of War
PR Pair/Public Relations
PRO In favour of/Professional
PS Post Script – Afterthought
PT Physical Training – Exercise/
Part

Q Question/Queen

R Right/King/River/Rex/Redhead/Run

RA Royal Academy – Artist – Painter/Royal Artillery – Gunner

RAM Royal Academy of Music/Butter (animal that butts)

RAT Deserter

RC Roman Catholic/Red Cross

RD Road – Way – Highway

RE Royal Engineers – Sappers – Soldiers/About/Again/Concerning

REP Salesman

REV Reverend/Revolution

ROT Rubbish

RM Royal Marines – Marines/Royal Mail

RMA Royal Military Academy

RN Royal Navy – Navy

ROD Pole

RT Right

RU Rugby Union

RUM Peculiar – Odd

RY Railway

S South – Point Way – Pole/Son/Old Bob-Shilling

SA South Africa/Salvation Army

SAW Cutter/Proverb

SC Little Science

SE South East

SET Group

SH Quiet – Silence

SIC Thus – So

SM Sergeant-major

SO Thus

SP Starting Price – Odds

SQ Square

SR Senior

SRN State Registered Nurse

SS Steam Ship – Vessel

ST Street – Way/Saint – Good man

SUB U-Boat

SW South West

T West End/Sort of square/shirt/Times leader

TA Territorial Army – Terriers/Thanks

TAR Sailor

TATE Gallery

TENT Wine

TIN Can

TNT High explosive

TOM Cat

TOP Head

TON Heavyweight

TOR Hill – Eminence

TT Teetotaller – Non-drinker – Dry/Motor cycle race

TU Trade Union

TUC Trades Union Congress

TV Television

U You say (as in 'sound of you') – U turn/Upper (class, bracket)/Superior/Universal

UAR United Arab Republic

UC Upper case

UK United Kingdom

ULT Last month

UN United Nations – International – A French

UR Ancient city

US United States of America – American – States/You and me

V Versus – Against/Victory/Five (Rn)/Verse

VI Flying bomb (Doodlebug)/Six (Rn)/5-1

VIP Bigwig

VR Victoria Regina

W West– Point – Way/Wicket

WI Womens Institute/Mayfair

WK Week

WO War Office

WM William

WT Weight

X Cross/Kiss/Ten (Rn)

YR Year

Convention Indicators

The following is a list of convention indicators and category pointers employed in the puzzles in alphabetical order: Note – There may be more than one indicator in a clue, in which case I have selected the one I consider most helpful. It should also be remembered that in cryptic clues one convention may well embrace others. To this end, I have included in square brackets the conventions with particular association. DA

Ab Abbreviation(s) [Re, Du, Po, En]
Ac Acronym – initials forming word(s)
Af African term or reference
Ai Artist, Sculptor, Architect and associated movements
Am American term or reference
An Anagram in clue [Ab, Po, Re, En]
Ar Archaic [Po, Ab, Do]
As Association of words or ideas [Po, Ab, Do]
At Antonym
Au Australian term or reference

Ba Ballet [Th, Ch, Li]
Bi Biblical reference [Do]

Cd Cryptic definition (Alternative interpretation to the obvious)
Ch Character [fictional] [Li, Sh]
Ci Cinema
Cl Clue within clue [Ab, Po, Re, As]
Cn Conundrum or riddle [Du, Do, Po, Lo]
Co Contracted form – e.g. LANCS [Ab]
Cr Composer [Mu]
Cs Concealed solution in clue [Re, Po]
Cy Chemistry [Er]

De Definition [As, Do]
Dm Disguised meaning [Po, Ab]
Do Double meaning (or homonym)
Dr Dramatist/Drama [Li, Th]
Du Word division (Two or more words or letters forming single word) [Ab, Po]

Eg Reference to Egypt
En Envelope (word containing another) [Ab, An, Re, Po]
Er Engineering/Science [Ma, Ps]

Ev Event [Hi]
Fa Familiar term or saying [Sl, Vu]
Fe Festival – religious or other
Fl Flora
Fr French, Franglais or France [Po, Ab]
Ft Fairy tale or legend [My, Li, Nr]

Ge Reference to German or Germany
Gk Reference to Greek or Greece [My, Lo]
Gr Grammatical term or reference
Gy Geographical term or feature

Hi Historical reference

Id Idiom [Fa, Sl]
Ir Reference to Ireland or Irish
It Reference to Italian or Italy [Po, Ab]

Kn General Knowledge

La Latin [Rn, Ro, Po, Ab, Le, My]
Le Legal terminology [La]
Li Literary reference [Ch, Sh]
Lo Logic [Gk]

Ma Mathematics [Ps, Er, Lo]
Me Medicine
Mu Musical reference [Op, Ba]
My Greek and Roman mythology including the deities

Na Nautical term or reference
Ne News media/journalism
Nr Nursery Rhyme or association [So, Sa, Li, Ft]

Op Opera [Th, Ch, Li]
Or Oriental reference or term
Pa Palindrome (Reads both ways – e.g. NOON) [Po, Ab]
Pe Reference to a person [Li]
Ph Partially hidden solution

Pl Place name
Pm Parliamentary term or ref.
Po Pointer(s) [Ab, Re, En, Du]
Pr Proverb [Sa]
Ps Philosophy/Philosopher [Ma, My, Lo]
Pt Poet [Li, Wr, Dr]
Pu Pun [Do, Du, Po, Sd]

Qu Quotation [Li, Sh]

Ra Radio
Re Contains reversal [Ab, Po, An, En, Du]
Ri River
Ro Ancient Rome [La, Rn]
Rn Roman numeral(s) [La, Ro, Po, Ab]
Ru Reference to Soviet Union

Sa Saying or proverb [Nr, So]
Sc Scotland or Scottish
Sd Sound (depending on) [Pa]
Sg Surgery (removal or replacement of parts of one word to form another)
Sh Shakespearian reference [Li, Ch, Th]
Si Sign [Po, Ab]
Sk Scandinavian
Sl Slang [Po, Ab]
So Song [Nr]
Sp Reference to Spanish or Spain [Po, Re, Ab]
St Sporting reference
Sy Synonym

Te Popular term [Fa, As]
Th Theatre [Ch, Li, Ba, Op]
Tv Television

Vu Vulgar [Sl, Fa]

We Reference to Wales or Welsh
Wi Witticism
Wr Writer/author [Li, Pt, Dr]

CROSSWORDS