

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

26 September 2026 — 10 clues, easiest first. Answers overleaf.

1. Cheek from sassy, almost (4)

4 · Deletion · difficulty 2/5

2. Posted rent with a change of heart from R to S (4)

4 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

3. Can accounts subtract within deduction after audit? (6)

6 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

4. Battered rock for a stopper (4)

4 · Anagram · difficulty 2/5

5. Concealed — ridden after a letter swap from R to H (6)

6 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

6. Dasher and naughty Cupid eagerly race, at first — reindeer (6)

6 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

7. Acquire name, now fully adult (5)

5 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 3/5

8. Blaze, gleam (5)

5 · Double definition · difficulty 3/5

9. Tea broken draft reveal surface better in conclusion — horn (6)

6 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

10. Layout style marked '4mat' (6)

6 · Glyph rebus · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **SASS** (4)

School corridor when the whisper still travels. Almost strips the last Y from sassy and leaves SASS. Cheek is the impudent backchat sense, not a facial blush. Soft chalk and a lukewarm custard sell the deletion as playground weather, not a bare end-clip.

2. **SENT** (4)

Mail-room tweak. Posted means sent; rent with a change of heart swaps R for S, giving SENT.

3. **DEDUCT** (6)

Counting-house sigh over another red pen. Within takes DEDUCT from deduction — subtract, take away. Ledgers, cold tea and a humming fan wrap the letters as bookkeeping grind, host left untouched.

4. **CORK** (4)

Stopper is the definition — bottle bung, not a traffic obstruction. Battered is your anagram cue, and rock is the fodder to scramble into the cork. Geology battered into cellar gear makes a neat double image, and solvers who stay with the wine-bottle reading get there first.

5. **HIDDEN** (6)

Attic trapdoor when the hinge still squeaks. Concealed means hidden; ridden after a letter swap — R to H — yields HIDDEN from RIDDEN. Soft mothballs and a cold torch sell the switch as loft mutter.

6. **DANCER** (6)

Reindeer is the definition; the first letters of the listed words spell DANCER.

7. **GROWN** (5)

Registry hush while the ink still dries on the form. Acquire is GROW; name supplies N; GROWN means adult. Soft carpet and a ticking clock wrap coming-of-age talk around a tidy two-part symbol. No fanfare — just the letters locking.

8. **FLAME** (5)

Hearth at dusk: blaze as the fire itself, gleam as it flames — FLAME either way. Heat and shine in one short breath.

9. **ANTLER** (6)

Stag-park postcard after a cracked cup. In conclusion tips tea broken draft reveal surface better into A-N-T-L-E-R. Horn is the antler sense — a branched spike — so the picnic mishap sells the terminals.

10. **FORMAT** (6)

Publisher note: '4mat' read FOR-MAT yields FORMAT. Layout style is the definition — the edition's arrangement on the page.