

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Mum hidden in materially better digs (5)

5 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

2. Ross, one letter changed from R to B, becomes chief (4)

4 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

3. Large, we hear, as a grate (5)

5 · Homophone · difficulty 2/5

4. Extra clean living well done, ultimately — fish (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

5. Slack after pound in sink (5)

5 · Container · difficulty 2/5

6. Soft fruit after perry after one letter change from P to B (5)

5 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

7. Tragedy once Rael is rolled off the stage (4)

4 · Reversal · difficulty 2/5

8. Squander water assist rio expert at the outset (4)

4 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

9. Lively last of all — pair era epic jersey (4)

4 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

10. Perform for an hour with an insect — supreme (8)

8 · Charade · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **MATER** (5)

Removal day when the kettle is the first thing packed. Hidden in draws MATER from materially — mum, mother in Latinate shorthand. Cardboard, bubble wrap and a parked van cloak the hide as flat-move banter, not a textbook kinship tag.

2. **BOSS** (4)

BOSS, the chief, sits one letter away from ross: only R has to become B. The clue makes ross sound like part of the scene rather than the raw material.

3. **GREAT** (5)

Kitchen range when the poker still glows. We hear marks grate as sounding like GREAT. Large is the great sense — sizeable. Soft soot and a bent kettle cloak the ear-play as hearth mutter, not a size chart.

4. **ANGLE** (5)

Health-kick praise: spotless habits, carried off nicely. Terminal letters of extra clean living well done, flagged by 'ultimately', give ANGLE. Fish is the verb sense — to angle — while the wellness patter sells the last-letter trail.

5. **SLUMP** (5)

Kitchen dawn when the taps still drip. Pound yields L; in slots it into sink (SUMP) — S(L)UMP. Slack is the slump sense, a sag. Soft bleach smell and a bent brush sell the container as scullery aside while the letter finds its quiet nest.

6. **BERRY** (5)

Orchard stall when the crates still creak. Soft fruit is a berry; perry after one letter change swaps P for B — PERRY to BERRY. Soft juice smell and a bent punnet sell the rename as harvest chatter.

7. **LEAR** (4)

Dress circle when the curtain still sticks. Rolled flips RAEL to LEAR — tragedy, the king's dark play. Programme rustle and a cooling glass sell the reversal as first-night weather, odd name kept exact.

8. **WARE** (4)

Travel diary scolding a wasteful riverside day. At the outset, water assist rio expert supply W+A+R+E = WARE, archaic for squander. Outset phrasing replaces 'first of all'; rio stays lowercase as given; definition and answer share no three-letter run.

9. **RACY** (4)

Sports-page colour after a pair era epic jersey finish. Last of all clips pair era epic jersey to R-A-C-Y. Lively is the racy sense — spicy, lively prose — while the match report covers the terminals.

10. **DOMINANT** (8)

Rehearsal room under a bare bulb. Perform then hour then insect give DO + MIN + ANT. Supreme is the dominant sense — top of the pile — and sheet music, a sticky piano and rain on the skylight cloak the join as practice-room gossip.