

## TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

3 October 2026 — 10 clues, easiest first. Answers overleaf.

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1. Recapture some of caretaker duties left (6)

6 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

2. Iron men for a woman? (6)

6 · Charade · difficulty 2/5

3. Column organic visit enter receive, to begin with — blanket (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

4. Mangled trucks left the village badly affected (6)

6 · Anagram · difficulty 2/5

5. Father — shop, drama and choir close, finally (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

6. Erotic with a change from R to X goes foreign (6)

6 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

7. Malice with right in — goblin (6)

6 · Container · difficulty 3/5

8. Points of detail with a change of heart from T to R may jump (6)

6 · Substitution · difficulty 3/5

9. Choppers that fell trees (4)

4 · Double definition · difficulty 3/5

10. Tennis after statute north (4)

4 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 3/5

## Answers & explanations

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### 1. **RETAKE** (6)

School corridor after the keys go missing. Some of lifts RETAKE from caretaker. Recapture is the retake sense — seize again — and mop buckets sell the hide as janitor weather rather than a labelled strip.

### 2. **FEMALE** (6)

Forge aside when the anvil cools. Iron is FE; men MALE — FEMALE. Woman is the plain sense. Sparks and wet leather sell the join as workshop banter, parts left in order.

### 3. **COVER** (5)

Blanket is the definition. Taking the first letter of each word in the clue gives COVER.

### 4. **STRUCK** (6)

Local-news crash report. Mangled trucks supply STRUCK; affected means hit or stricken. Surface-first reading is almost too plausible, which is the point: solvers may hunt a container before spotting the six-letter mix.

### 5. **PADRE** (5)

Parish gossip on the face of it: the shop, a drama, the choir wrapping up. Closing letters of shop drama and choir close, flagged by 'finally', spell PADRE. Father is the straight definition — the priest — while the church-hall chatter hides the last-letter trail.

### 6. **EXOTIC** (6)

Bedroom heat turns strange. Foreign means exotic. Erotic with a change swaps R for X, giving EXOTIC.

### 7. **SPRITE** (6)

Folklore shelf when the dust still lifts. Right maps to R; in plants it inside malice (SPITE) — SP(R)ITE. Goblin is the sprite sense, a tricky spirit. Soft cloth and a leaning ladder sell the container as attic aside rather than a fairy taxonomy.

### 8. **DERAIL** (6)

DERAIL answers "jump", and it comes straight out of detail once T is swapped for R. Detail reads innocently in the sentence; the letter is the only thing that moves.

### 9. **AXES** (4)

Forest track when the blades still flash. Choppers are axes as tools; fell trees is to axe. Soft needles and a lukewarm flask sell plural tool and verb as trail aside.

### 10. **LAWN** (4)

Clubhouse banter when the groundsman points at the chalked baseline. Statute yields LAW and north the N, so LAWN. Tennis is the grass-court sense, not a legal brief. Mown stripes and a distant umpire's chair dress a law-plus-compass charade as match-day chat.