

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Hand within transcript of the hearing (6)
6 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5
2. Disastrous line part of fatality report filed (5)
5 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5
3. Detectives follow trick after one letter change from I to A (5)
5 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5
4. Watch once sticker is beheaded (6)
6 · Deletion · difficulty 2/5
5. Fast — at the end, golf skill came welfare planet (5)
5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5
6. Pay after loss era smell pizza junior billy, last of all (6)
6 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5
7. Inspection of a university's detailed internal tally, primarily (5)
5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5
8. Options in finite bounds still seem countless (8)
8 · Charade · difficulty 3/5
9. Geese in a giggle with a change from I to A (6)
6 · Substitution · difficulty 3/5
10. Ounce of some goof (4)
4 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **SCRIPT** (6)

Clerk's aside as the tape is typed up. Within pulls SCRIPT from transcript — hand in the handwriting sense. Carbon paper and a ticking clock cloak the host so the noun feels spoken at the desk.

2. **FATAL** (5)

Incident desk when the overnight brief arrives damp from the rain. Part of finds FATAL in fatality — disastrous, deadly in tone. Stamp pads and cold coffee sell the hide as official copy, not a melodramatic banner.

3. **TRACK** (5)

Trail of footprints. Follow means track; trick after one letter change puts A where I sat, giving TRACK.

4. **TICKER** (6)

Exchange floor when the labels still peel off screens. Watch is the ticker of prices. Beheaded removes S from sticker, leaving TICKER. Soft jackets and a humming board cloak the deletion as trading aside, not a stationery drill.

5. **FLEET** (5)

Fast is the definition. Taking the last letters of golf, skill, came, welfare and planet, signalled by 'at the end', gives FLEET.

6. **SALARY** (6)

Staff-room moan over loss era smell pizza junior billy. Last of all nips S-A-L-A-R-Y. Pay is the salary sense — the wage packet — while the leftover lunch fronts the terminals.

7. **AUDIT** (5)

Campus accounts under the microscope. Primarily picks A-U-D-I-T from a university's detailed internal tally. Inspection is the definition — an audit — and the bursar's nightmare is the red herring.

8. **INFINITE** (8)

Seminar hush when the chalk squeaks. IN plus FINITE — limited — yields infinite. Countless is without number. Cold coffee and a humming projector sell the join as campus weather, paradox worn lightly.

9. **GAGGLE** (6)

Farmyard flock. Geese form a gaggle; giggle with a change puts A where I sat, giving GAGGLE.

10. **ZANY** (4)

Ounce of some: Z + ANY. The goof is ZANY — wild and odd. Brown paper on the scales is just shop dressing.