

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Jam in blocked drain after last night's storm (5)

5 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

2. Monster, freaky docked (5)

5 · Deletion · difficulty 2/5

3. Zone empty reads oddly, initially — love (4)

4 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

4. Poet gripping energy for hair (5)

5 · Container · difficulty 2/5

5. Value image combat trap open reach, at first — master (6)

6 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

6. Clint, its heart changed from C to F, turns stony (5)

5 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

7. Silver from garnet upset (6)

6 · Anagram · difficulty 3/5

8. Evening as the sky is set westwards (7)

7 · Charade · difficulty 3/5

9. Cub, reportedly the sunny (5)

5 · Homophone · difficulty 3/5

10. Urgent message sent off (8)

8 · Double definition · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **BLOCK** (5)

Kitchen mutter when the water backs up. In finds BLOCK in blocked — jam, a stoppage. Wet towels and a sighing plumber sell the host as domestic mishap, not a traffic metaphor alone.

2. **FREAK** (5)

Fairground dusk when the rides still rattle. Docked removes the final Y of freaky, yielding FREAK. Monster is the oddity in the tent, a showpiece shock. Soft candyfloss and a bent ticket stub cloak the trim as midway aside, letters exact under neon.

3. **ZERO** (4)

Tennis umpire's dry note when the board shows nothing. Initially stacks zone, empty, reads, oddly to give Z-E-R-O, that is ZERO — love on the score. Centre-court irony cloaks the pick.

4. **BEARD** (5)

Studio loft when the ink still blobs. Energy yields E; gripping nests it in poet (BARD) — B(E)ARD. Hair is the beard sense. Soft wool and a bent lamp sell the container as sitting mutter, letters doing quiet work.

5. **VICTOR** (6)

War-game briefing on the winning side. Taking the first letters of value, image, combat, trap, open, reach gives VICTOR, which is master. Sand-table dust sells the initials.

6. **FLINT** (5)

FLINT, the stony, sits one letter away from clint: only C has to become F. The clue makes clint sound like part of the scene rather than the raw material.

7. **ARGENT** (6)

'Upset' tips GARNET over and it gleams as ARGENT — silver in heraldry. Gemstone talk is the cloak.

8. **SUNDOWN** (7)

Cliff path when the light still softens. Sky yields SUN, set DOWN — evening is sundown, day's close. Salt wind and a distant foghorn cloak the join as coastal weather rather than a labelled dusk tag.

9. **SONNY** (5)

Cub is the sunny sense — a bright young one. Reportedly flags sunny as a homophone for SONNY, the weather spoken as the lad.

10. **DISPATCH** (8)

Courier desk: an urgent message filed, and goods or troops sent off — DISPATCH. Report and transport in one breath.