

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Guitar within embassy reception suite (4)

4 · Hidden word · difficulty 1/5

2. Man when rep semi more logic zone, finally (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

3. Answer — trust enclosing president (5)

5 · Container · difficulty 2/5

4. Merit earn — reserve with a change of heart from R to D (7)

7 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

5. Brat when one becomes another from B to P — silly butt (4)

4 · Substitution · difficulty 3/5

6. Wild latex to glorify him (5)

5 · Anagram · difficulty 3/5

7. Puzzle initially — they ever allow split extent recall (6)

6 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

8. Incentive in the book burden (5)

5 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 3/5

9. Wounds one may touch (9)

9 · Double definition · difficulty 3/5

10. Firmament Lisbon looks to (3)

3 · Translation · difficulty 4/5

Answers & explanations

1. **BASS** (4)

Cultural attaché's aside before the recital. Within marks BASS inside embassy — guitar in the bass sense, the low strings. Name cards and warm white wine cloak the diplomatic host while the instrument sense lands cleanly.

2. **PIECE** (5)

Chess-club mutter: rep semi more logic zone. Finally takes P-I-E-C-E. Man is the piece sense — a chessman — while the tournament zoning fronts the closers.

3. **REPLY** (5)

Cabinet lobby when the brief still rustles. President yields P; enclosing puts it in trust (RELY) — RE(P)LY. Answer is the reply sense. Soft carpet and a humming fax sell the container as Whitehall mutter, not a civics primer.

4. **DESERVE** (7)

Wage justified. Earn means deserve; reserve with a change of heart swaps R for D, giving DESERVE.

5. **PRAT** (4)

Schoolyard insult. Butt is the prat; brat when one becomes another replaces B with P, giving PRAT.

6. **EXALT** (5)

'Wild' frees LATEX and it becomes EXALT — to glorify. Rubber plant or paint, the definition is up front.

7. **TEASER** (6)

Memory-test brief that never quite coheres. Leading letters of they ever allow split extent recall, tipped by 'initially', assemble T-E-A-S-E-R. Puzzle is the definition — a teaser — while the cognitive checklist does the camouflage.

8. **BONUS** (5)

Payroll office when the envelopes still stack. Book yields B and burden ONUS — B+ONUS spells BONUS. Incentive is the extra sense. Soft paper and a humming fan wrap letter-then-load as clerkly mutter.

9. **SCRATCHES** (9)

Double duty: scratches as light wounds, and scratches as light touches. Skin-deep either way.

10. **CEU** (3)

Portuguese céu is sky (CEU in the grid). Lisbon looks up for you.