

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Marginal ledge after first cut (4)

4 · Deletion · difficulty 2/5

2. Fluent cash flow in liquidity crisis? (6)

6 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

3. Writing tool for words (3)

3 · Double definition · difficulty 2/5

4. Count with C changed to M — financial backing (5)

5 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

5. Folded paper from ballet with a change from B to W (6)

6 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

6. To begin with, some customers really expect a meal — cry (6)

6 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

7. Vain to employ the lower gear now (7)

7 · Charade · difficulty 3/5

8. Initially, beer on old zinc yields drunken state (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

9. Guests enjoy nice interesting afternoon lunch at first — friendly (6)

6 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

10. Jive after second backstage (5)

5 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **EDGE** (4)

Cliff path when the sheep still nudge the verge. Marginal is the edge, the brink. First cut docks the L from ledge, giving EDGE. Soft mist and a bent gate sell the chop as walkers' caution rather than a shelf tip.

2. **LIQUID** (6)

City desk after a scramble for overnight funds. In liquidity yields LIQUID-ity from the opening. Fluent is the liquid sense — free-flowing cash — so the crisis headline cloaks the letters without meddling with the host spelling.

3. **PEN** (3)

Desk drawer: a pen as implement, and to pen thoughts in words — PEN. Instrument and the verbal act of writing.

4. **MOUNT** (5)

Boardroom when the projector still hums. Backing is the mount of support; count with a change — C to M — and COUNT becomes MOUNT. Soft carpet and a lukewarm coffee dress the rename as investor chatter.

5. **WALLET** (6)

Purse money. Paper here is a wallet; ballet with a change puts W where B sat, giving WALLET.

6. **SCREAM** (6)

Cry here is a loud yell. To begin with harvests the first letters of some customers really expect a meal, spelling S-C-R-E-A-M. Picture a packed café where the queue is losing patience — the dining-room joke sits in front of a clean acrostic.

7. **USELESS** (7)

Hill climb when the engine still complains. Employ yields USE, lower LESS — vain is useless, no good at all. Petrol smell and a misted windscreen sell the join as roadside weather instead of a bald adjective peel.

8. **BOOZY** (5)

Pub counter chemistry: ale sat on a battered zinc top. 'Initially' pulls B-O-O-Z-Y from beer on old zinc yields. Drunken is the definition — well oiled — and 'state' pads the surface so the sentence reads like a barman's observation rather than a formula.

9. **GENIAL** (6)

Host's report: guests enjoy nice interesting afternoon lunch. 'At first' lifts G-E-N-I-A-L from guests enjoy nice interesting afternoon lunch. Friendly is the definition — genial company — so the weekend invite hides a neat acrostic.

10. **SWING** (5)

Dance hall when the band still tunes. Second yields S; backstage is WING — S+WING makes SWING.
Jive is the lively dance sense. Soft velvet and a humming amp cloak the join as stage-door chatter.