

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Built-in hidden in inherently damp cellar walls (8)

8 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

2. List from cleaning, tip removed (7)

7 · Deletion · difficulty 2/5

3. Still remaining once departed (4)

4 · Double definition · difficulty 2/5

4. Break, last of all, magic player anna eric risk (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

5. Behalf with energy in means collar (5)

5 · Container · difficulty 2/5

6. Swindle from teach battered (5)

5 · Anagram · difficulty 2/5

7. Snoop after one letter change from N to C will dredge (5)

5 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

8. Reportedly rood is indecent (4)

4 · Homophone · difficulty 3/5

9. First of all, clever host announces funny fare — banter (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 3/5

10. Always, kids type '4ver' (7)

7 · Glyph rebus · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **INHERENT** (8)

Basement steps with a torch beam wobbling. Hidden in lifts INHERENT from inherently. Built-in is the underlying sense — inherent — and white bloom, a wine rack and the smell of coal cloak the long hide as house-survey chatter.

2. **LEANING** (7)

Ship's rail when the deck still lists. List is the lean sense — a tilt to one side. Tip removed docks the opening letter of cleaning and yields LEANING. Soft brine and a lukewarm mug cloak the chop as crew aside rather than housework talk.

3. **LEFT** (4)

Station platform when the train still clears. Still remaining is left as residual; once departed is left as gone. Same four letters for what stays and for who went.

4. **CRACK** (5)

Break is the definition. Taking the last letter of each word in the clue gives CRACK.

5. **SEIZE** (5)

Custody desk when the form still cools. Energy maps to E; in plants it inside behalf (SIZE) — S(E)IZE. Collar is the seize sense, take hold. Soft plastic and a humming strip-light sell the container as station weather.

6. **CHEAT** (5)

'Battered' beats TEACH about and it comes back CHEAT — a swindle, a bilk. The classroom is the cloak.

7. **SCOOP** (5)

Nosy neighbour digs dirt. Dredge is scoop; snoop after one letter change turns N into C, giving SCOOP.

8. **RUDE** (4)

Church porch when the stone still chills. Indecent is the rude sense — coarse or uncivil. Reportedly flags rood as a homophone for RUDE. Soft hymn books and a leaning umbrella sell the crucifix word as parish mutter while the ear strips the courtesy away.

9. **CHAFF** (5)

Dinner-party wit: a sharp host introducing comic dishes or jokes. Lead letters of clever host announces funny fare, under 'first of all', make CHAFF. Banter is the light ribbing — chaff in the old sense — so definition and wordplay meet without a colon template in sight.

10. **FOREVER** (7)

Teen thumbs, no capitals. Always sits up front; '4ver' spoken is FOREVER. The four stands in for the FOR sound — pure rebus, no other trick.