

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

28 September 2026 — 10 clues, easiest first. Answers overleaf.

1. Barrier hidden in swallow nests under eaves (4)
4 · Hidden word · difficulty 1/5
2. Look for battered except (6)
6 · Anagram · difficulty 2/5
3. Rid once disposed is curtailed (7)
7 · Deletion · difficulty 2/5
4. Reading shell also view, finally — gleaming (4)
4 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5
5. Change from secret holding nitrogen (7)
7 · Container · difficulty 2/5
6. Break away study idea nowhere at first — trough (5)
5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5
7. Proverbial expression uttered (6)
6 · Double definition · difficulty 2/5
8. Impairment on the hydrogen branch (4)
4 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 3/5
9. Blight with a change of heart from B to A sets things burning (6)
6 · Substitution · difficulty 3/5
10. Double, one letter changed from U to A, proves manageable (6)
6 · Substitution · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **WALL** (4)

Cottage porch when the birds return. Hidden in lifts WALL from swallow. Barrier is the rampart sense — a wall — and mud cups, a ladder and evening midges sell the short hide as country weather rather than a labelled fort.

2. **EXPECT** (6)

Someone is hunting the one case that does not apply, and the surface sells that hunt. Battered pummels EXCEPT into EXPECT — to look for, to anticipate. Definition up front.

3. **DISPOSE** (7)

Skip yard when the lids still slam. Rid is to dispose of unwanted stuff. Curtailed docks the final D of disposed, yielding DISPOSE. Soft grit and a lukewarm flask cloak the truncation as clearance chatter, not a temperament aside.

4. **GLOW** (4)

Beachcomber pause: reading shell also view. Closing letters of reading shell also view, marked by 'finally', give GLOW. Gleaming is the definition — a soft glow — while the shore sketch sells the surface.

5. **CONVERT** (7)

Vestry hush when the candles still gutter. Nitrogen yields N; secret is COVERT and holds it — CO(N)VERT. Change is the convert sense. Soft stone and a bent hymnal sell the container as quiet chapel aside.

6. **BASIN** (5)

Trough is the definition. Taking the first letter of each word in the clue gives BASIN.

7. **SAYING** (6)

Kitchen aside when the motto still hangs. Proverbial speech is saying; expression uttered is saying as to express. Straight double. Flour dust keeps maxim and utterance as one six-letter line.

8. **HARM** (4)

Orchard path when the saw still bites. Hydrogen yields H and branch ARM, so H+ARM spells HARM. Impairment is the damage sense. Soft leaf and a bent ladder sell tree-work weather around a letter-plus-limb charade.

9. **ALIGHT** (6)

Crop edge catching. Burning is alight; blight with a change of heart swaps B for A, giving ALIGHT.

10. **DOABLE** (6)

DOABLE, the manageable, sits one letter away from double: only U has to become A. The clue makes double sound like part of the scene rather than the raw material.