

TappyPotato · Daily cryptic clues

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

1. Damage within priceless vase after the bump (5)

5 · Hidden word · difficulty 1/5

2. Sentiment in emotional letters from the quay (7)

7 · Hidden word · difficulty 2/5

3. Stream from panel often upset regard, to begin with (4)

4 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

4. Ruffian junk after a letter swap from J to P (4)

4 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

5. Word gram call (4)

4 · Letter as symbol · difficulty 2/5

6. Agitated gunter looks pressing (6)

6 · Anagram · difficulty 2/5

7. Dance floor mango, its heart changed from M to T (5)

5 · Substitution · difficulty 2/5

8. Pot and tin trays yield, at first — cake (5)

5 · Letter selection · difficulty 2/5

9. Fasting time one lent (4)

4 · Double definition · difficulty 2/5

10. Gang around blade bellow (7)

7 · Container · difficulty 3/5

Answers & explanations

1. **PRICE** (5)

Antique dealer wincing as the packing straw settles. Within lifts PRICE from priceless — damage, the cost sense of the knock. Soft cloths, insurance forms and a pale sticker turn the hide into shop mishap rather than a bare money word.

2. **EMOTION** (7)

Dockside hush when the mailbag thumps down. In finds EMOTION inside emotional — sentiment, feeling laid bare. Salt spray, a bent stamp and gulls overhead turn the hide into parting weather, not a dictionary peel.

3. **POUR** (4)

Plumber's aside on a stubborn kitchen tap. To begin with opens panel, often, upset, regard spelling POUR — stream. Spanners and wet floors turn the initials into one continuous flow, not a list.

4. **PUNK** (4)

Take junk, turn its J into P, and out comes PUNK — "Ruffian" in the everyday sense. A natural-sounding use of junk does the covering here.

5. **SONG** (4)

Choir loft when the organ still hums. Word maps to SON; gram supplies G — SON+G makes SONG. Call is the sung piece sense, a carol by another name. Soft hymnals and lukewarm tea dress the additive join as vestry chatter.

6. **URGENT** (6)

Sail talk: the gunter yard is in a flap. 'Agitated' scrambles GUNTER to URGENT, and pressing is the definition — urgent business.

7. **TANGO** (5)

TANGO, the dance, sits one letter away from mango: only M has to become T. The clue makes mango sound like part of the scene rather than the raw material.

8. **PATTY** (5)

PATTY means cake. The clue's first letters, taken from its word list, spell PATTY.

9. **LENT** (4)

Fasting time as the church season; lent as given for a while. Pew leaflet still creased.

10. **ROARING** (7)

Forge yard when the bellows still wheeze. Blade maps to OAR; around slots it into gang (RING) — R(OAR)ING. Bellow is the roaring sense. Soft ash and a scratched apron cloak the container as smithy weather.