

# Progress during a CZD Crosswords course for beginners

## Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners: Knuston Hall, January 2018

How well students perform on a practical task is one way to assess how effective a course is in delivering learning outcomes. All CZD Crosswords courses include practice puzzles, and one is used here to demonstrate progress.

### Summary: All students had acquired the target solving skills

The photographs demonstrate that all 6 students had achieved the learning outcomes for this stage of the course — the completion of module 3, which is half-way through the course.

### The role of practice puzzles

Each module of a beginners course ends with a Practice puzzle designed to give further practice on the topics covered in the module, as well as integrate new learning with topics covered earlier.

Module 3 covers:

- Sandwich, Deletion and Reversal clues
- Definition formats, connectors and punctuation

The topics covered in the previous modules are:

1. Hidden Word and Anagram clues. Basic clue structure. Surface and cryptic reading
2. Charade clues. Short word substitutions and abbreviations. The Solving Compass.

Practice puzzle 3 includes all of the above six types of clue and incorporates the generic topics that have been covered (for example, some of the clues will contain connectors).

Practice puzzles are used at the end of learning modules in the book *Learn How to Solve Cryptic Crosswords* and the app *Learn Cryptic Crosswords*.

### Setting expectations

Students expectations are set before undertaking practical work — that they should not expect to be able to complete the activity in the time allotted. Completing most or some of an activity demonstrates a grasp of the basic skills and knowledge to tackle clues at this stage, and with practice their performance will improve.

### Evaluating the outcomes

Photos of each student's puzzle were taken after 15 minutes. These are shown on page 2.

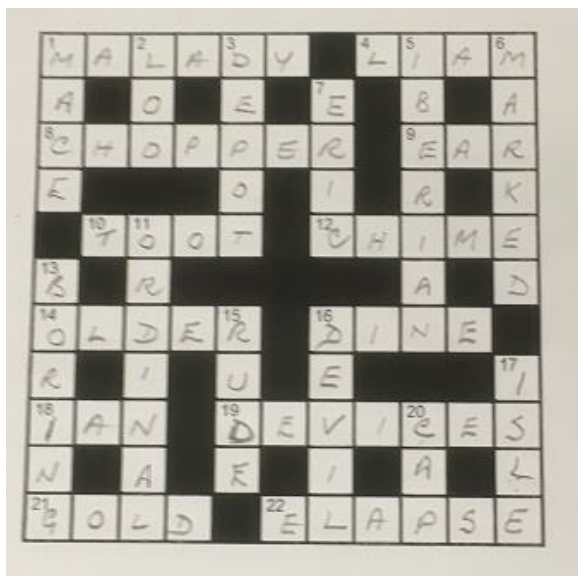
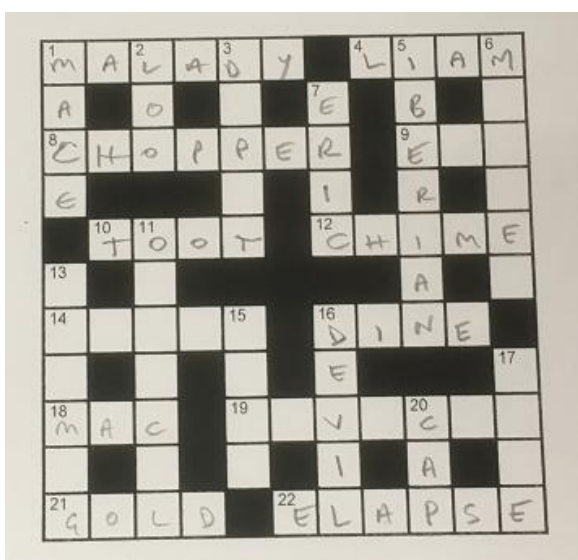
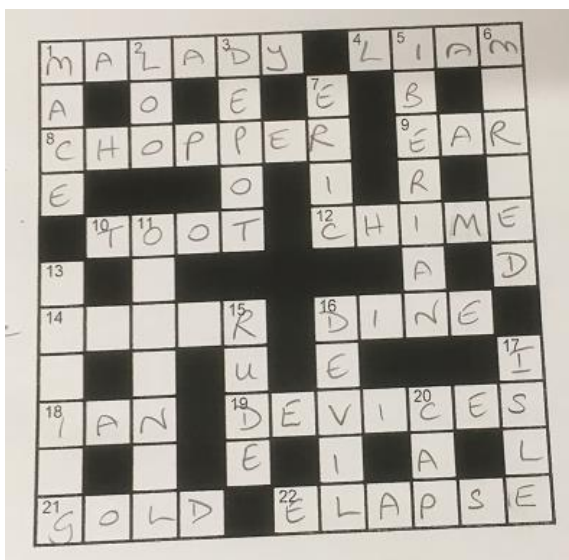
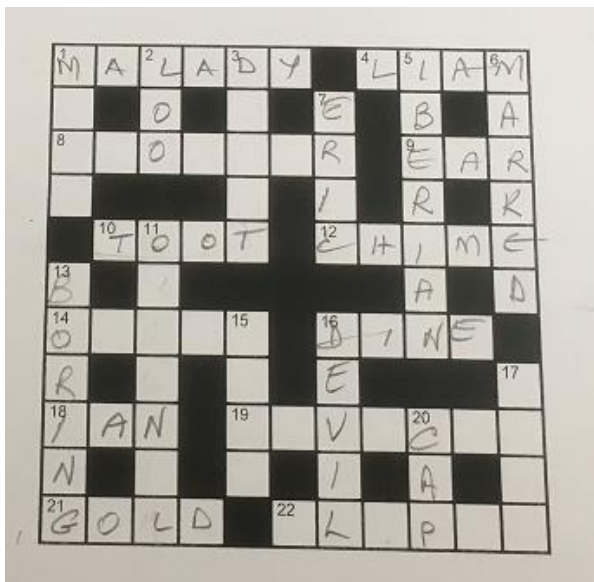
Everyone managed to complete at least half the puzzle and two students finished. They show that all students have successfully solved some of each type of clue. (One student put in an incorrect answer for 18 Across)

Answers and explanations are always given after a practical session on a CZD Crosswords course.

### The practice puzzle

The Practice puzzle used is on page 3, with the solution shown on page 4.

This document was first published at [www.czdcrosswords.co.uk/Courses/](http://www.czdcrosswords.co.uk/Courses/)



### Practice Puzzle 3: Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners Course

This puzzle is used on CZD Crosswords courses for beginners at the end of Module 3: Taking clue structure further.

It consists of clue types that have been covered in the course so far: Hidden Word, Anagram, Charade, Sandwich, Deletion and Reversal clues.

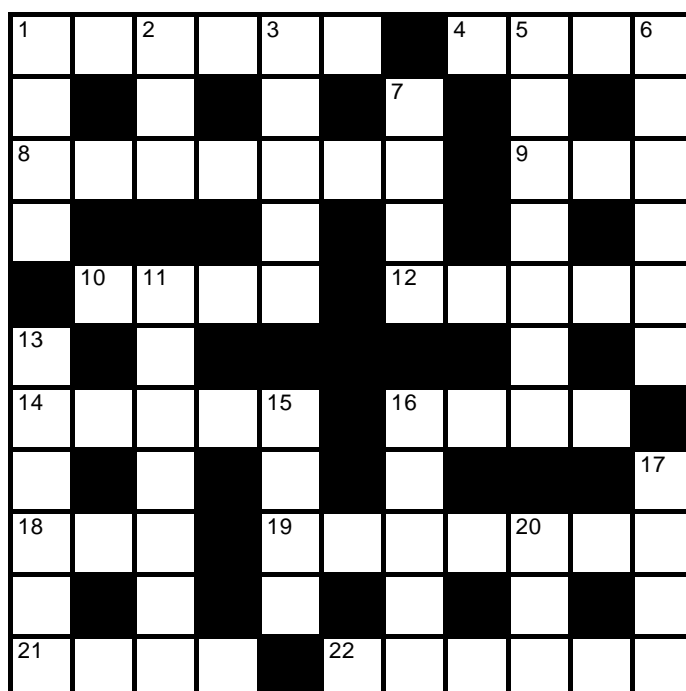
None of the clues use generic aspects of clue construction that have not yet been introduced in the course.

#### Across

- 1 Young chap in May gets disease (6)
- 4 Returned mail for Irishman (4)
- 8 Policeman takes heroin in helicopter (7)
- 9 Dreary section for organ (3)
- 10 Sound horn going either way (4)
- 12 Ringing sound from him entering church (5)
- 14 Start off more confident when more advanced in years (5)
- 16 Enid comes back to have a meal (4)
- 18 Scotsman's one article (3)
- 19 Little Desmond harbours weakness for gadgets (7)
- 21 Good old precious metal (4)
- 22 To pass by, please change (6)

#### Down

- 1 Motorway expert's club (4)
- 2 A washroom in Bloomsbury (3)
- 3 Despot loses second arsenal (5)
- 5 Siberian beheaded someone from Spain or Portugal (7)
- 6 Scratched ancient boat in the Mediterranean, briefly (6)
- 7 Clapton discovered in America (4)
- 11 A number making noise, interrupting exam (7)
- 13 Bring round nothing? - that's dull! (6)
- 15 Without limits, prudes are not polite (4)
- 16 Lived up to being a fiend (5)
- 17 Lies about Man? (4)
- 20 Cape cut short to make hat (3)



## Practice Puzzle 3: From Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners Course

### Solution

#### Across

- 1 Young chap in May gets disease (6)
- 4 Returned mail for Irishman (4)
- 8 Policeman takes heroin in helicopter (7)
- 9 Dreary section for organ (3)
- 10 Sound horn going either way (4)
- 12 Ringing sound from him entering church (5)
- 14 Start off more confident when more advanced in years (5)
- 16 Enid comes back to have a meal (4)
- 18 Scotsman's one article (3)
- 19 Little Desmond harbours weakness for gadgets (7)
- 21 Good old precious metal (4)
- 22 To pass by, please change (6)

1	M	A	2	L	A	3	D	Y		4	L	5	I	A	6	M
	A		O		E			7	E			B		A		
8	C	H	O	P	P	E	R					9	E	A	R	
	E					O			I			R			K	
		10	T	11	O	O	T			12	C	H	I	M	E	
13	B		R										A		D	
14	O	L	D	E	15	R			16	D	I	N	E			
	R		I			U			E						17	I
18	I	A	N			19	D	E	V	I	20	C	E	S		
	N		A			E			I		A			L		
21	G	O	L	D			22	E	L	A	P	S	E			

#### Down

- 1 Motorway expert's club (4)
- 2 A washroom in Bloomsbury (3)
- 3 Despot loses second arsenal (5)
- 5 Siberian beheaded someone from Spain or Portugal (7)
- 6 Scratched ancient boat in the Mediterranean, briefly (6)
- 7 Clapton discovered in America (4)
- 11 A number making noise, interrupting exam (7)
- 13 Bring round nothing? - that's dull! (6)
- 15 Without limits, prudes are not polite (4)
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