



**ACROSS**

1. 100 or 500 twisted strands? (4)
4. Sequestered, so behind schedule in documents (8)
10. Word of woe, according to Calvin Klein (5)
14. Idiosyncrasy captures a court stratagem (6)
18. Fashion designer Pierre meets a left winger? (8)
19. "Romanian mounts vehicle trail," I answer (11)
21. Jordan's neighbour is retro character with daughters (6)
22. Drop level coming from speakers (4)
23. Bend leaves in tree (6)
24. Smile cut short dull routine (4)
27. Principal surrounded by tall grass didn't leave (8)
28. Not crazy about whine, precious? (7)
29. Even German pistol recoils with a bit of resistance (7)
30. TDs are fantastic sports news (6)
31. The foreign Microsoft group that's shady? (4)
32. Maintain a shelf in the auditorium (6)
34. Markets monastery lodgings to an audience (5)
35. I located mixed drink (4,4)
37. Dotty adores hugging that fellow bellyacher (8)
40. A fruit-filled pastry's reversed layers (6)
42. Having a collaborator return bag, visibly embarrassed (9)
46. Date for foolish folks instead, I assumed (1,6)
48. Greek character interrupts flake: "Don't despair" (4,2)
50. Initially very good including Chinese female in competition (5)
53. 62.5% of beautiful stuff (5)
55. Oakland ballplayer urges H. H.? (7)
58. Come back about mongrel (5)
59. Trailblazer one found in fishing spot (7)
60. Tiger moth carries microbe (4)
63. Family treasure I stored in her tower (8)
64. Rousseau's final nudes somehow fresh (6)
65. Miner's tool was up front, smashed (7)
66. Took the bike path, we hear (4)
68. Military unit ordered to carry equipment (7)
70. You glisten, holding wrinkly fruit (5)
72. Diocese leaders truncated big stores (7)
73. Target of NBA players before Los Angeles commotion (6)
76. Liturgical language, cold and visionary? (6)
79. Entertaining woman laughs with Miss Trueheart (7)
81. Quantity of paper wrapped around large sphere (5)
82. Animates error-free, swivelling legs (7)
85. Begin to move pen (4)
87. Sign incomplete score, a bit more than three to zero (7)
90. Tack stuck into petition facing upward (6)
92. Attempt Gordon Sumner meeting (8)
95. I had each concept (4)
96. Mostly talk about this instant item in a stir-fry (4,3)
97. Centre of knee jammed into lower back, long in the past? (5)
98. Techniques satisfied brick carriers (7)
99. Anglican headdress initially tossed into swamp (5)
100. Bugs old-time comedian Arnold from the east (5)
101. Idolize midnight messenger (6)
102. With courage, journalist Nellie hosts all-night party (7)
104. Rules out styling deep curls (9)
109. Bygone delivery person seen in service manual (6)
112. Scrambled to repeat Gilbert and Sullivan production (8)
115. Purists upset about restricted saddle attachments (8)
117. Strike down small arachnid (5)
119. Ambitious climber? Uh-huh, crusty one (6)
121. Name from the Bible is, to a Mexican, gold (4)
123. Location for a dartboard, positioned near TV (6)
124. Blocks slim 136-Across, in part (7)
125. Place to get clean hit, finally hit in centre (7)
126. Unusual tie score understood by few (8)
128. A pair in Madrid fusses (4)
129. Harassing electoral district (6)
130. Repeat end of dialogue with comedian Margaret (4)
131. Rage consumes one ghostly apparition (6)
132. A game soldier with gusto making amends for lateness, perhaps (11)
133. Female pair from Europe waste time following a system from the Middle Ages? (8)
134. Closet invaders keeping ultimate in fashion quite a while (6)
135. Cursed southwestern Oregon (5)
136. Leads pet off base (8)
137. Gloomy widow's inheritance announced (4)

**DOWN**

1. Public announcers eviscerate animals? (6)
2. Hard to get burger order (4)
3. Finishes off drab cult with a vampire (7)
4. Ladies developed high standards (6)
5. Most populous province shaped Iran too (7)
6. One of the Argonauts arranged actual backing (7)
7. Clutching part of your body, kitty recalled place to land (6)
8. Swimming orca due somewhere on the equator (7)
9. One with MacLean's golf clubs (5)
10. Shows up without Romeo, free at last, calm (7)
11. A Starbucks size for any reason (2,3)
12. Finish church site of St. Peter's (6)
13. Stopper sending up cry in midst of endless hike (6)
14. Pack a location in Florida (5)
15. Quash half of army forming a ring (7)
16. You are texted, flanked by high schooler serving dish (6)
17. Element of change no longer transmitted to the audience (4)
20. Informed on actor Richard in discovery (8)
25. Understand froth of a frivolous nature (3,3,5)
26. Pair of barmaids spot troublemaker (3,5)
33. Series composition is included in lyric poems (8)
36. Suffering, become depressed, not using head (7)
38. Prepare to try again rope rug weaving (7)
39. Empty photos excluding true foodies (8)
40. Fight a wasted detachment? (5)
41. Starts to tidy up rain forest territory (4)
43. Amusing story one acted on the rocks (8)
44. Fruit growers engaging last of tough crowds? (6)
45. Fiend ultimately ruined Alaskan city to the north (5)
47. Resistance units circle Her Majesty's Ship (4)
49. Here in Montreal, most of staff sign holiday decoration (6)
50. Clear opening in variety show (9)
51. Dropping line, sourly changed letter closing (5)
52. Tinfoil conceals dirt (4)
54. He's a brute because of this uprising (4)
56. More compact container of sardines? That is right (6)
57. They hack audit of organization's money (8)
61. Seems bias affected common protest sites (9)
62. Encounter is hot behind sort of boot room (8)
67. Radical popes not put off (8)
69. Considered deprived of freedom? (11)
71. In a way, ascend to Eastern religion (6)
72. Incredibly lazy Leo in bed, shaking (4,4)
74. Du Maurier conclusively analyzed a ringless phone (6)
75. People in a group mess up, trapped in well (8)
77. Motherlode initially put at your disposal in record time (3,4)
78. Cheats Chicago's train system (7)
79. Island pumpkin clipped close (6)
80. Clean up first bit of the blow (5)
83. Groom, strait-laced and quiet (5)
84. Sports celebrity tells running back (4)
86. I love Washington state (4)
88. Gulf cops restricted Iraq's leader, a political asset (8)
89. Ancient type of opportunity not initiated (5)
91. Sandwich bread — father eats it (4)
93. Crude cartel deal, heading to the lowest point (4)
94. Get handbag put on a scale, you might say (8)
103. At first, edit a page, in essence words carved in stone (7)
105. Overturn one concern of a jockey's outfitter? (7)
106. Separate Summer Olympics competitor, for example, coming up (7)
107. Sparring boxers might pull these fruity beverages (7)
108. Quickly say it, interrupting gush (4,3)
110. Green part of ephemeral design (7)
111. Put in a dither, have possession of part of a city (6)
113. Some film archives containing Belgrade's first insurgents (6)
114. Inferior backing includes \$100 cash set aside (6)
116. Again peruse dearer novel (6)
117. Tears up a large type of notebook (6)
118. Book about a queen makes the rounds for a stretch (6)
120. Love securing university money from overseas (5)
122. In the morning, I leave Enrique's friend (5)
123. Bracing for last half of picnic (5)
125. Soothing lotion in herbal medicine (4)
127. Farm structure 0715 rotated 180 degrees? (4)

Cryptic crosswords are the wordplay-packed relatives of regular crosswords. If you're new to the game, you need to learn the difference between regular clues and their cryptic cousins. The important distinction is that every clue has two parts: a definition of the answer and another way of arriving at the answer through word play. These two parts are put next to one another: You must figure out where one part ends and the other begins. There are eight main types of word-play hints, each with its own special signals that indicate what to do to produce the answer a different way.

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### 1. Anagram:

Coldest cities rebuilt (6) In an anagram clue, the letters that make up the answer are given in scrambled form. Beside them is an anagram signal, a figurative word or phrase that indicates that you must anagram letters. (As well, as in any cryptic clue, there is a normal definition of the answer.) In the clue above, the answer ICIEST ("coldest") is a rebuilt (i.e., anagrammed) version of CITIES. The digit 6 in parentheses tells you the answer is a six-letter word.

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### 2. Charade:

Churchill gains weight (7) In a charade, the answer is broken into pieces and clued piece by piece. WINSTON ("Churchill") is a charade of WINS ("gains") + TON ("weight").

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### 3. Hidden Word:

State in Balkans assailed (6) Sometimes, the clue-writer gives the answer spelled out in its correct order right in the clue. No rearranging is necessary. What "state" is hidden in BALKANS ASSAILED? Look closely, and you'll see KANSAS.

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### 4. Two Meanings:

Doesn't take pages from a book (6) Some words have two meanings from different origins. For these words, the cluewriter may just give the two definitions side by side. LEAVES means both "doesn't take" and "pages from a book."

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### 5. Container:

Hot relatives caught in trap (6) In a container, the solution is formed by putting one part of the answer inside (or outside) another. BAKING ("hot") is formed when KIN ("relatives") is caught inside BAG ("trap"), like this: BA(KIN)G.

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### 6. Homophone:

Burn prophet, we hear (4) A homophone clue tells you that the answer has the same sound as another word or phrase. SEAR ("burn") sounds like SEER ("prophet") when "we hear" the word. Every homophone clue has a signal like "to the audience," "by the sound of it" or "reportedly" that indicates that people hear or say the two words the same way. This homophone signal is always beside the definition of the homophone, not beside the definition of the actual answer word.

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### 7. Reversal:

Beloved animals pace back (4) A clue may hint that the answer word spells something when reversed. The answer PETS ("beloved animals") is STEP ("pace") reversed. A reversal clue always contains a signal (like "back," "returned" or "from the east") that suggests the reversal in a playful way. In down clues, which refer to vertical entries, look for indicators like "up," "northward" and "rising."

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### 8. Deletion:

Almost tan forehead (4) A clue may suggest that a word could lose its "head" (first letter), "heart" (central letter) or "tail" (last letter) to form a new word. Or the clue may tell you not to start the word, or not to finish it. BROW ("forehead") is almost BROWN ("tan"). The word "almost" suggests that you need almost all of the word. That is, you drop the last letter.