

Tim Moorey's Crossword Workshops: Brief outline

Have you always been puzzled by cryptic crosswords? Do you want to do better with your daily solving? A relaxed workshop with like-minded people in various UK locations could help and be fun.

Who is the course for?

Complete beginners and those wishing to improve crossword skills. Age is irrelevant. A love and appreciation of the English language is all you need to bring along.

A workshop consisting of almost entirely solving puzzles together for fun and with the aim of improving skills of already fairly experienced solvers of a daily cryptic is scheduled for September 2011 at Earnley Concourse near Chichester.

How does it work?

As shown in examples below, we will go through the various clue types in easy-to-follow charts, and how to recognise each type. On the way we'll explore the tricks of the trade and the subtle use of the wonderful English language employed by various crossword setters. There will be lots of practice in solving puzzles from various newspapers and magazines, including the tutor's own published crosswords.

Tailored as far as possible to your own skill level, the course has a big emphasis on fun and "no embarrassment for anyone" is a guarantee

Is it true, as some argue, that you cannot "teach" crosswords?

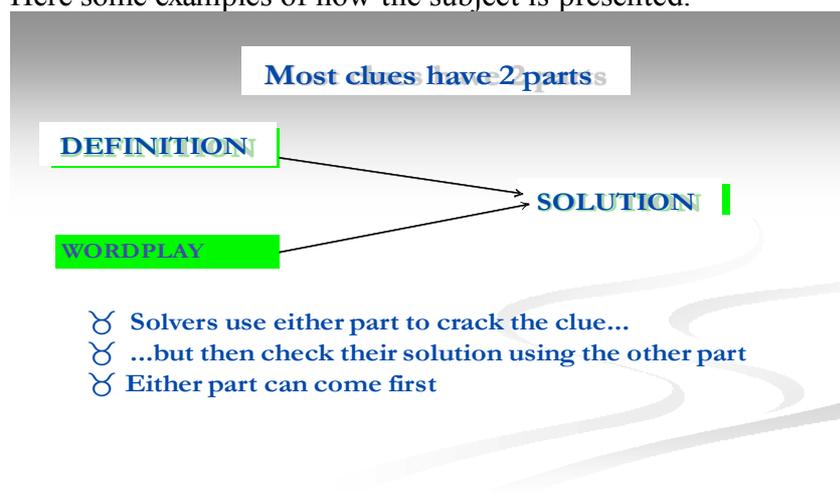
Absolutely not, as shown by results over the past 10 years in course assessments and later comments of many former students

Where?

At various UK locations including Marlborough College Summer School every July and ad hoc for groups such as University of the Third Age and Women's Institute.

Courses can be residential. Details of those presently on offer are always given on Tim's website and tailored events can be arranged on request.

Here some examples of how the subject is presented:



Here is an Anagram clue example:

Mum, listen for a change (6)

DEFINITION

Mum

SOLUTION

SILENT

WORDPLAY

listen for a change

WHAT TO DO

Rearrange the letters of
LISTEN

SILENT

This is a Reversal type clue:

Knock back beer like a king (5)

DEFINITION

like a king

SOLUTION

REGAL

WORDPLAY

Knock back beer

WHAT TO DO

Reverse BEER = LAGER

REGAL

This clue type involves something to be taken away:

Possess a topless dress (3)

DEFINITION

Possess

SOLUTION

OWN

WORDPLAY

a topless dress

WHAT TO DO

Deduct first letter from
GOWN = DRESS

OWN

There are more types of clue:

HOW MANY CLUE TYPES ARE THERE??

There are 12

- ✕ 8 have Indicators – showing what you have to do
- ✕ 4 do not have Indicators – you have to guess what to do (but it's not that difficult!)

After a few more slides, we then move straight into solving clues and whole puzzles with many tips on the way, for example:

SOLVING TIPS: CLUES

- Identify the clue type via indicator, where present
- Try to find something looking like a definition
- It's *either* first *or* last in the sentence
- Enjoy any imagery created but beware of it
- Consider each word separately and carefully
- Use given word lengths eg (4,2,3,4)
- Don't ink anything in until certain (ideally via definition and wordplay)

What are the qualifications of the tutor?

Tim Moorey as well as being a crossword setter for the Sunday Times, The Week and others, is an adult tutor of around 15 years standing. He is a sought after speaker on crosswords, for example being on the WI speaker panels for Surrey, Kent and Essex. He is the author of *How to Master The Times Crossword* published by HarperCollins and a consultant for Chambers Crossword Dictionary.

He will take you through the fascinating realms of a particularly British institution. Age is irrelevant; you can be a complete beginner or someone wanting to improve solving skills. Decidedly not competitive, the emphasis is on fun in a relaxed teach-in, tailored as far as possible to your own skill level.