

the cruciverbalist

Cryptic Abbreviations

- A** *article, one/I, ace, top mark, first letter key/note*
- AB** *sailor (able-bodied seaman)*
- AD** *now/these days (anno domini), notice/advertisement*
- AI** *best/excellent/first class, maned sloth*
- B** *bad, book, black, British/Britain, bachelor, bishop, born, key/note*
- BA** *degree, academic (also MA)*
- C** *around (circa), carbon, can opener, century/hundred, conservative, club, key/note*
- CH** *chapter, check, church (CE=Church of England; RO=Roman Orthodox), companion*
- CO** *company/business/firm*
- CT** *court (ST=street; RD=road; PL=place)*
- D** *daughter, dead, diamond, five hundred, key/note*
- E** *east/direction, English/England, energy, sweetheart, ecstasy/drug, key/note*
- ER** *queen (Elizabeth Regina), hesitation (also UM)*
- F** *female, folio, following, force, loud (ff=very loud), key/note*
- G** *girl, gravity, gram, grand/thousand, good, midnight, key/note*
- GI** *soldier (OR/RE/TA=soldiers/men)*
- GP** *doctor (also DOC/DR/MO/MB/MD/BONES)*
- H** *heroin, hard, height, husband, hour, hydrogen, horse, hot, last month*
- I** *me/myself/yours truly/the setter, one, iodine, hearing organ (sounds like 'eye')*
- IT** *sex appeal/X factor, computers*
- J** *joule, judge, talked about bird (jay)*
- K** *king, kilo/thousand, knight, potassium*
- L** *left, learner/novice, fifty, lake, First Lady, large, Latin, liberal, length, pound (money)*
- M** *man/male, minute, metre, mile, married, million, maiden, mass, thousand/grand*
- N** *north/bearing, name, new, knight (chess), nitrogen, number, pole*
- NT** *New Testament/book/books/scriptures (OT=Old Testament)*
- O** *old, over, ring/circle/band, duck/love/nil/nothing/zero, oxygen*
- OP** *operation/surgery, work (opus)*
- OS** *overseas/abroad, large/outsize*

P *piano/soft/quiet (pp=very quiet), penny, page, pressure, pawn*

PA *annual/per annum, father, (personal) assistant/secretary, Pennsylvania*

Q *question, queen*

R *right, river, run, rook, king/queen/ruler/monarch (regina/rex), ringleader*

RA *Royal Academy/artist, Royal Artillery/gunmen*

RU *Rugby Union/game/sport/code*

RY *railway/lines*

S *south, son, society, saint (often ST), pole, second, shilling, sulphur, skinhead*

T *time, junction, model (T Ford), at last/East End, ton/ne, tiptop*

U *posh (Br. upper class), you overheard, turn, upstart, uranium, university*

V *versus/against/opposing, five, see (L. 'vide'), verse, volume, victory, very*

W *west, wife, woman, wide, wicket, with, last straw, centre forward*

X *times/by, chromosome, cross, ten, kiss, unknown, vote, coordinate*

Y *unknown, coordinate, chromosome, year, yen*

Z *unknown, final letter/character*