

US 13x13 cryptic crossword puzzle sample - solution

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The explanation of the answers starts below on the second page

1	E	T	H	O	S		6	C	H	A	I	R	S				
12	L	O	O	K	E	R	13		14	R	O	M	N	E	Y		
15	P	U	L	L	N	O	16	P	U	N	C	H	E	S			
17	A	L	D	A		18	D	A	M	E		19	A	D	O		
20	S	O	U		21	H	E	R	B		22	F	L	I	P		
23	O	N	P	24	O	I	N	T		25	S	I	F	T	S		
				26	P	E	T	R	E	L	S						
28	F	U	M	E	D		31	I	N	A	H	32	E	33	A	34	P
35	E	P	I	C		36	E	D	D	Y		37	L	S	E		
38	U	S	A		39	S	A	G	O		40	M	E	S	S		
41	D	I	S	42	A	S	T	E	R	43	M	O	V	I	E		
44	A	D	M	I	R	E		45	A	L	M	O	S	T			
46	L	E	A	D	I	N		47	S	A	N	T	A				

CROSSWORDSITE US SAMPLE CRYPTIC – CLUE AND ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

Across:

- 1** Ets (= anagram (about) of "set") with h and o (= hero - er (i.e. without hesitation ("er") = unhesitating)) inserted = Ethos (= spirit)
- 6** Anagram (in a spin) of "his car" = Chairs (= controls)
- 12** Look (= glimpse) + ER (Emergency Room) = Looker (= a beauty)
- 14** Rome (= Italian capital) mixed with (muddling) N and Y (= state) = Romney (George, an eighteenth century portraitist who painted ladies and gentlemen)
- 15** Pull no punches = give it to them straight. Also means do not attract (pull) draft horses (Suffolk Punches)
- 17** AA (= Alcoholics Anonymous = drinkers) with ld (= lethal dose) inserted = Alda (Actor Alan)
- 18** Anagram (confused) of me, a and D = Dame (= old gal)
- 19** A (= last letter of Obama) + do (= bash) = Ado (= bother)
- 20** Chase = chase legally, or sue, but "audibly" means the word is not "sue" but sounds like it, i.e. = sou (= trifle)
- 21** Herb (= sage, for example (= perhaps)) = Herb Alpert, who signed "The Carpenters" to the A&M record label
- 22** F (= note) + lip (= edge) = Flip (= turn over)
- 23** On (= live) + point (= feature) = On point (= appropriate)
- 25** SS (= security force) with ift (= anagram (about) of "fit") inserted = Sifts (= screens)
- 26** Pet (= favorite) + R (= Republican) + Els (= Ernie Els, a South African golf pro) = Petrels (birds often found way out to sea)
- 28** "Starters" means use the first letters of "firing up Mike's elderly Dodge" = Fumed (= got angry = got hot)
- 31** In (= at home) + a heap (much) = In a heap (= randomly piled up)
- 35** Pic (= image) after E (which initiates enlargement) = Epic (= colossal)
- 36** Current = Eddy ("eddy current", an electrical occurrence) (= Nelson Eddy, singer of old)
- 37** LSE = anagram (bother) of "les" (French for "the") = a university in London, England (across the Atlantic)
- 38** UA (= United Artists, a studio) surrounding (swallows) S (= buck) = USA (= US Army, an armed force)

39 Sag (= sink) + o (= no) = Sago (= food thickener)

40 MS (= manuscript (document)) containing E and S (= compass points) = Mess (= fiasco)

41 Catastrophic screen story = Disaster movie, which could also be the description of any film failing at the box office (a turkey)

44 A + DE (= Delaware) with Mir (= old Russian space station) inserted = Admire (= look up to)

45 Almo (= Alamo (mission) - a) + st (= street, a way) = Almost (= to all intents and purposes)

46 Lea (= grassland) + din (= row) = Lead-in (= start)

47 "Troublemaker" indicates an anagram of "tans a" = Santa (for example, Santa Barbara)

Down:

1 El Paso (= anagram (in a mêlée) of "lose" and PA (Pennsylvania)). El Paso is North of the Mexican border

2 TN (= Tennessee) with ou (= French for where) and lo (= pilots – pits (= stones)) inserted = Toulon (a French naval base)

3 Hold (= understanding) + up (= on high) = hold-up (which will waste your time)

4 Sooner + state (= synonym of "set out") = Sooner State = Oklahoma - homa (= snip off final four) = Okla

5 Sen (= representatives - private steer) = a very small amount of money in Cambodia

6 Crumb (= piece of cake); could be (?) crumb of comfort

7 H (= hydrogen, a gas) + one (= I) = Hone (make perfect). Additional but inessential attraction of the term "perfect gas" for thermodynamic cognoscenti

8 A + MC (= Master of Ceremonies, or host) = AMC = American Motor Corporation (which used to make Jeeps (off-roaders))

9 In (= fashionable) + half (= side (of a body or meat carcass)) = In half (= one way to cut something)

10 Reed (= John Reed, early 20th century Communist) + it = Re-edit (= cause more change)

11 Sy (= Cosy with co (company) dropped) + sops (bribes) = Sysops (= computer bulletin board operators)

13 Rod (slang for gun, = shooter) + ent (a tree creature in Lord of the Rings) = Rodent (such as a squirrel)

16 If the leader = P (first letter) of Partridge (a flier) is replaced with C (China's leader), it

becomes Cartridge and could itself shoot (= shoot itself)

21 Flew = hied, and hied could mean "said Hi" (= greeted)

22 F (= foremost letter of frigate) + ish (= anagram (implied by "detonate") of "his") = Fish (= slang term for torpedo)

24 The oil oligopoly OPEC sounds like O, peck! (appeal to a chicken)

25 S (= southern) + LA (city) + y (= end of day) = Slay (= hit)

27 Endor (= home of an Old Testament witch) + a = Endora (= Samantha's witch mother in TV series "Bewitched")

28 F + e (beginning letters of "fine educational") + u (= upper class) + dal (= lad in reverse) = Feudal (describing an old administrative system)

29 Up (= ahead of an opponent) + side (= edge) = Upside (= the advantages, or pros, of something)

30 Anagram (disturbing) of "Mama is" = Miasma (= bad air)

32 E (= a poor grade (poor review)) + levon (= "novel" (story) in reverse (retracted)) = Elevon (an aircraft flap or control surface)

33 As + sis (= diminutive of sister, a sibling) + t (= trips - rips (tears)) = Assist (= help)

34 Pea (= ammunition blown in a peashooter) round set (= fixed) = Peseta (old Spanish currency)

36 Ea (= each or every) + ten (= a decade) = Eaten (= corroded)

39 S (= second) + sri (= Indian title or salutation) = SSRI (= selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, a kind of anti-depressant)

40 MOMA (= A Mom (parent) reversed (returns)) = MOMA (Museum of Modern Art, in New York City)

42 A (= "Administration's" leader) with I'd following = Aid (= relief)

43 Morlocks (a man-eating servant race in H G Wells' "The Time Machine") - (spitting out) orock (= anagram (chewed up) of "crook") = MLS (= Major League Soccer, home of the soccer team Chicago Fire)