

# CRYPTICKLES

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In the November 1992 Kickshaws, Dave Morice quotes Mike Reiss "I'll wager that there is a word, common phrase, or well-known title that will cryptically clue every letter of the alphabet". Indeed there is; cryptic crossword constructors have been weaving their magic for over half a century. I add the following to the original list (also included).

- A 'The Last of Sheila', midday, First Alert, center stage, inside track, middle class, centrally located, about face, 'West Point of the Air', 'East of Java'
- B the start of a beautiful friendship, boiling point, ballpoint, 'Baby Face', fringe benefit
- C artichoke heart, cheer leader, head of the class, cutting edge, Western civilization, lunatic fringe, left of center
- D back of the mind, end of the world/road, dead end, bad end, bleeding heart, rear guard, speed limit
- E 'The End of Innocence', right face, negative/positive ending, end of the line, beginning of the end, end of time, Great Divide, halfway there, leading edge, end game, horse's ass
- F finger tip, first of February, false front, forefront, fast forward, 'Face of a Fugitive', foul tip, left field
- G midnight, cutting edge, living end, group leader, late evening, middle age, end of everything, gunpoint, go west, right wing, outer garment
- H bottom of the ninth, hothead, top-hole, top of the heap, hilltop, middle of nowhere, end of the earth, prehistoric, left-handed, quarter of an hour, tip of the hat, west side of Heaven, to the rear march, Midlothian, headfirst
- I never out of sight, midpoint, medical center, tip of the iceberg, West Indies, outside influence
- J January first, Jewish leader
- K bookend, inner workings, end of the week, black bottom, rock bottom, knife point, backside
- L end of the trail, a head for learning, loss leader, first in line, leading light, bottom of the barrel, leading lady, tail end, center fielder, lose face, rear admiral, lunatic fringe
- M 'The Thirteenth Letter,' first of the month, majority leader, early morning, inside information, midsummer, leading man,

- top of the morning, mountain peak/top, right of asylum
- N solon, center of attention, a new beginning, midmorning, national leader, right on, head nurse, 'The Edge of Night', outskirts of town, 'East of Eden', western novel, fitness center
- O Beethoven's Sixth, left out, leftovers, inside story, splitting atoms, center of controversy, one of the boys, good at heart, photo finish, western omelet, inside job
- P leader of the pack, shopping center, front porch/page, peak performance, peak of perfection, pencil point, West Point, point of purchase, midshipman
- Q quite early, leading question, first quarter, open quotes
- R Central America, front room, redhead, soul of discretion, early retirement, ringleader, never-ending, Near East, bitter end, midafternoon, rear end, right face
- S 'The Last of the Mohicans', the end of us, first on the scene, 'Last of the Red-Hot Mamas', behind the times, lead singer, foresight, storefront, back of the bus, western sandwich
- T starting trouble, early twilight, late-night, outback, heart of the matter, cattail, central casting, a true original, ahead of time, 'The Edge of Night', central heating, tiptop, Far East, table top, turning point, without end, on the tip of the tongue
- U in deep thought, starting up, up front, Western Union, halfway house
- V civic center, center of gravity, the very beginning, peripheral vision, the very edge, preview, frontal view, face value, West Virginia, point of view, split-level
- W first of the week, start of World War III, world leader, widow's peak, West Point, waterfront, 'Rear Window', 'Westworld', left wing, early warning
- X 'Deep in the Heart of Texas', the heart of Dixie, within the maximum, Eastern Orthodox
- Y the Fourth of July, the very end, late in the day, right of way, deep in prayer, first of the year, fly right, untimely end, in the middle of everything, 'Journey's End', 'East of Piccadilly'
- Z a zipper in the front, Zulu leader, Zaire border, zero-point, zither opening, zit-face, Eastern jazz, 'West of Zanzibar', middle-sized