

## Fewer Cryptic Squares

The previous puzzle was “Cryptic Squares,” and I was going to call this one “More Cryptic Squares.” But “Cryptic Squares” had eight 5 x 5 word squares and hence 80 clues—and I’m not making that mistake again! This puzzle has only five word squares, and its title reflects that count.

Each grid has two entries that are too long. One entry will have its first letter sticking out, and one will have its last letter sticking out. The five-letter portion residing within the square of each six-letter word will itself be a legitimate word, but the associated clue relates to the six-letter word. As a final step, the ten letters that stick out can be anagrammed two ways, one into a two-word description of what (many) actuaries do and one into a two-word description of what (many) actuaries are. I believe these anagrams will be recognized as my most important contribution to the actuarial literature.

The clues are shown below by square, with the order left for the solver to determine. Hints are provided in the boxes below for those who need them.

There are ten proper nouns, one (in square 3) that I’d never heard of before. All 26 letters are used, and with such a tight construction, I had to loosen up a bit. There is one variant spelling in square 4 and three unusual words, one each in squares 1, 2, and 5. Unusual or not, all the entries except the proper nouns are playable in Scrabble.

Thanks to Eric Klis, Bob Fink, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

### Square 1

- Slips by cronies with fluency
- Don’s advertising household items
- Put final touches on audio stream, perhaps?
- Sounds like you’re in the subject of many tests

**SQUARE 1**

					1					
2	3	4		5						
6										
7										
8										
9										

**SQUARE 3**

1										
2	3	4	5	6						
7										
8										
9										
10										

**SQUARE 2**

	1	2	3	4	5				
	6								
7									
	8								
	9								

**SQUARE 4**

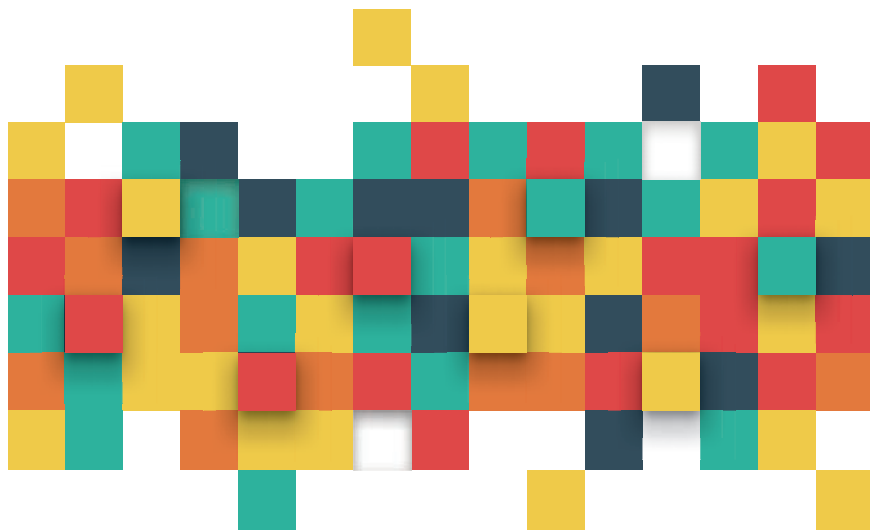
					1					
2	3	4	5							
6										
7										
8										
9										

**SQUARE 5**

	1	2	3	4	5				
	6								
7									
	8								
	9								

- Damn dog’s home, at last
- Square off a bit and complain
- Fake as silicon
- Grant’s portrayer nears, just a little tipsy
- Little fight with wound cut short
- Dip bread in that, when you take seconds

<p><b>Position of all words:</b>                  Square 1—9A, 5D, 1D, 4D, 6A, 2A, 3D, 8A, 2D, 7A, 4D, 2D, 1D, 8A, 1A, 3D, 9A, 5D, 2A                  Square 2—4D, 2D, 1D, 8A, 1A, 3D, 9A, 7A, 6A, 5D, 3D, 5D                  Square 3—6D, 10A, 2A, 9A, 1D, 4D, 8A, 7A, 3D, 5D                  Square 4—6A, 7A, 1D, 4D, 2D, 8A, 3D, 9A, 5D, 2A                  Square 5—8A, 1A, 1D, 5D, 9A, 7A, 6A, 4D, 2D, 3D</p>	<p><b>Position of 6-letter words:</b>                  Square 1—third and sixth clues                  Square 2—sixth and eighth clues                  Square 3—third and fifth clues                  Square 4—third and sixth clues                  Square 5—sixth and tenth clues</p>	<b>HINTS</b>
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### Square 2

- Delayed outburst from below
- Irregularly notched English rose
- Jack, I had to fight for religious beliefs
- Superiority thanks to not having enough tricks
- Holy man is envious, heartless, and throw in Socialist
- Judo instructor is seen going through the motions
- Bullwinkle and Bambi trampled reeds
- On hard arrangements, she helped Brian Wilson
- Fairly common girl's name in Ireland and New England!
- Accommodates workout gear, except for Wednesday

### Square 3

- Sold-out shows taking on new leads
- Bargains on cruises, I'm told
- Name of a girl God has cut off
- Struggle with the limits of exercising restraint
- Stuns with an intricate puzzle some shun
- Dance party left by a musician some people called Maurice
- Singer-songwriter from New Zealand takes over almost entirely upon return

- Iranian nomads according to new piece of information
- A backwards figure-skating move creates sounds that could occur in an echo
- Poor señor, such a bore

### Square 4

- Faulty drain at the bottom
- Make straight for the train to Harlem
- Emphasize strictness at the borders
- From the French perspective, Brexit is foremost a direct insult to the European Union
- Sunday snoozes for Pops
- Parking permit, if you would
- A cry of surprise as Ohio turned over everything
- Principles found in sound foundations
- MacGuffin always foreshadows the end

- Give very bad treatment to blaxploitation hero

### Square 5

- Turkish elder has sex appeal and indigestion
- Gathers on the outside as help descends on football player
- Little pigeon riding in squeaky pedicab
- Slippery trays go all over the map
- Boy accepting extra work for ill-gotten gains
- Type of crude language appearing in the margins of Gutenberg register
- Question trade of two pints
- Hemingway lady better off without Jake, in the end!
- Hit the road after exhausted payments
- After a fashion, I ran to Dole

### Final anagrams:

What many actuaries do: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What many actuaries are: \_\_\_\_\_

## Previous Issue's Puzzle—Cryptic Squares

### Square 1

- WASN'T—Anagram of "wants"
- TREES—Anagram of "steer"
- PROVE—P (from PIANO "subdued") + ROVE
- WASPS—Double definition
- STORE—Contained in "most Oresteia"
- SOLES—Homophone of SOULS ("character's")
- MASTER—Anagram of "stream"
- STOOL—Double definition
- NERVE—Anagram of "never"
- ASTRO—Contained in "Last road"

### Square 2

- SCAMPI—SCAM ("do a number on") + PI ("a well-known boy from Pondicherry")
- ANGIE—Outside "angry coterie"
- HERBS—HER ("That woman's") + BS ("ranting")
- EDGAR—Anagram of "Grade"
- LANCE—Anagram of "clean"
- CLIMB—C (from CIRCA "around") + LIMB ("part of a maple")
- KEEPS—anagram of "Peeks"
- FLASH—FL ("fluid") + ASH
- FLECK—Omit interior letters in "flimsy paycheck"

- LADLE—LAD ("Boy") + LE ("a little less")

### Square 3

- AGREE—Anagram of "eager"
- LOGAN—LOG ("Register") + AN ("one")
- AGORA—AG ("silver") + OR + A ("some antimony")
- LEASE—PLEASE ("if you don't mind")—P ("after the first")
- TENTS—Homophone of TENSE ("nervous")
- CREST—Double definition ("Tom's replacement" refers to toothpaste)
- OASES—Anagram of "So sea"