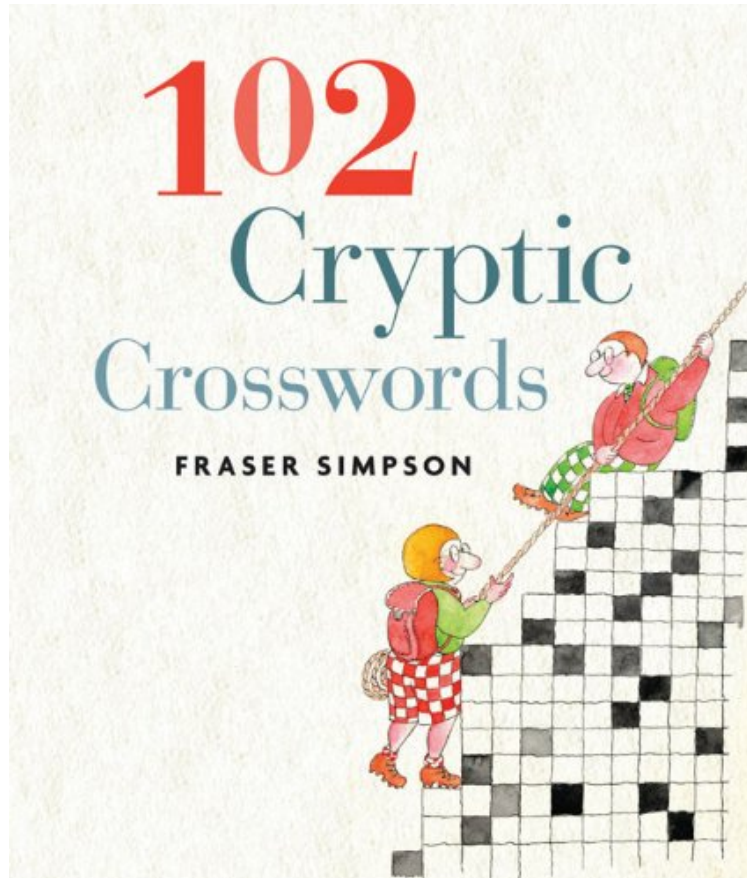


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## 102 Cryptic Crosswords (Official Mensa Puzzle Book)

*Fraser Simpson*

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#427436 in Books Puzzleright 2008-11-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .40 x 8.40 x 9.80l, .65 #File Name: 140275489296 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Fraser Simpson : 102 Cryptic Crosswords (Official Mensa Puzzle Book)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 102 Cryptic Crosswords (Official Mensa Puzzle Book):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. great fun for the word-loverBy Carol C.Oh my gosh, these are so much fun to do! They're challenging but not at all impossible. (Don't let the "mensa" in the title scare you off -- these are within reach of most any word-lover, genius or not.) They are great fun for a word-lover.If you're not familiar with cryptic crosswords, I would recommend reading a how-to guide before trying to tackle even the easiest puzzle. They're quite unlike standard American crosswords. Cryptic clues generally have two parts and are not to be taken literally. The solutions may be found in anagrams of the clue, hidden in the clue, homonyms of referenced words or in a number of other ways. If you approach these like traditional crosswords, you'll be frustrated in no time. Once you get the hang of it, though, they're so much fun. Solving cryptics requires you to think outside the box a bit, and the clues are often deliciously witty.The format of this book is great. It has a high-quality spiral binding so that it lies perfectly flat. The paper is high-quality and will hold up to anything your eraser wants to dish out -- though you may not need to use the eraser, as there is plenty of white space around the page for scribbles and trying to figure out anagrams. The puzzles are two to a page. The solutions, along with a brief (sometimes too brief) explanation, are in the back.

Everything you need! The book is about the size of typical magazine or 8 1/2 x 11" spiral notebook -- not small enough for me to stick in my purse, but easy to stick in a tote or briefcase. Fantastic book -- lots of fun -- good entertainment value for the money! 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Medium? No.. um... bad core is not very good (8) By Sid Ward Mediocre. The puzzles in this book are not very challenging, and also lack any creativity. The clue in the title of this review is at the level of creativity found in this book. My gf and I used to do the Atlantic Cryptics and also the Harper's. They were very challenging and creative, and would take our combined efforts over an evening, and sometimes a weekend. They were wonderful. The ones in this book, I can finish by myself in 20 minutes. The clues are rote, follow an  $a + b = c$  blueprint, with no creativity whatsoever. All the puzzles are small and the same size, and I guess they had an 'artist' draw the lines in the boxes, which is mildly annoying as the lines are irregular and in a very light shade. I am not sure where the 'official Mensa puzzle book' comes from; Mensa is not mentioned anywhere in the book, and that was the main reason I bought it over the Atlantic puzzle book. If you are looking for a challenge, that instead, instead of this weak, cookie cutter collection. -2 stars for lack of challenge and creativity -1 star for lack of variety and poor appearance of puzzles -1 star for borderline false advertising with the use of the word 'Mensa' 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Teensy Puzzles By I. Zawilski I am a big cryptic crossword fan, of the American style. (Too many puns and obscure sayings in the British variety.) There's nothing wrong with these puzzles, except they are pretty small, with two puzzles to a page. I prefer a larger puzzle. With the scarcity of good cryptic crossword books, I'd still recommend this collection.

Tired of the same old crossword clues? Want to put some spice into your solving? Then try this follow-up to the popular 101 Cryptic Crosswords, from former puzzle editor of The New Yorker Fraser Simpson. Unlike conventional crosswords, these quirky puzzles use clues that combine straightforward definitions with clever wordplay. For example, Hit friends back is the clue for SLAP, which means hit but is also PALS reversed (friends back). You'll also encounter homophones, hidden words, charades, deletions, pig Latin, and more. These mind-twisting puzzles are sure to give you hours of head-scratching, pencil-chewing fun.