

clue

1. [klu:] *n*
 - 1) ключ к разгадке, путеводная нить
clue to a puzzle - ключ к решению головоломки
 - 2) улика
 - 3) *амер.* сведение, информация
not have a clue - ничего не понимать, не иметь никакого представления (о чём-л.); не находить объяснения (чему-л.)
2. [klu:] *v амер.*
 - 1) сообщить (кому-л.) о (каком-л.) событии; раскрыть (новые факты и т. п.)
 - 2) раскрыть секрет, тайну (часто clue in)

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

clue

clue [clue clues clued clueing] *noun, verb* *BrE* [klu:] *AmE* [klu:]

noun

1. ~ (to sth) an object, a piece of evidence or some information that helps the police solve a crime
 - The police think the videotape may hold some vital clues to the identity of the killer.
2. ~ (to sth) a fact or a piece of evidence that helps you discover the answer to a problem
 - Diet may hold the clue to the causes of migraine.
3. some words or a piece of information that helps you find the answers to a [↑]crossword, a game or a question
 - 'You'll never guess who I saw today!' 'Give me a clue.'

Word Origin:

late Middle English: variant of clew. The original sense was 'a ball of thread'; this was used to guide a person out of a labyrinth. Sense 1 dates from the early 17th cent.

Example Bank:

- So far, the police haven't got any clues as to the motive for the crime.
- The burglar left no clues.
- The hat gives a clue to the identity of the killer.
- The letter yielded no clues.
- The picture contains subtle clues about the site's history.
- This research might provide an important clue about how cancer develops.
- We must have missed some vital clue.
- a clue as to her whereabouts
- Is there any clue as to how the burglars entered the building?

Idiom: [↑]not have a clue

Derived [↑]clue somebody in

verb

Verb forms:

| verb forms | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| present simple | |
| I / you / we / they | clue |
| | BrE /klu:/ |
| | NAme /klu:/ |
| he / she / it | clues |
| | BrE /klu:z/ |
| | NAme /klu:z/ |
| past simple, past participle | clued |
| | BrE /klu:d/ |
| | NAme /klu:d/ |
| -ing form | clueing |
| | BrE /klu:ɪŋ/ |
| | NAme /klu:ɪŋ/ |

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clue

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

1. **clue** ¹ **S2** /klu/ *BrE* ² *AmE* ³ *noun* [countable]

[Date: 1500-1600; Origin: clew 'ball of string' (11-19 centuries), from Old English cliewen; from the use of a ball of string for finding the way out of a network of passages]

1. an object or piece of information that helps someone solve a crime or mystery:
 Police have found a vital clue.

clue to/about/as to

- We now have an important clue as to the time of the murder.
- Archaeological evidence will provide clues about what the building was used for.

clue in

- This information is a valuable clue in our hunt for the bombers.

a desperate search for clues

2. information that helps you understand the reasons why something happens

clue to/about/as to

Childhood experiences may provide a clue as to why some adults develop eating disorders.

3. a piece of information that helps you solve a crossword puzzle, answer a question etc:

I'll give you a clue, Kevin, it's a kind of bird.

4. not have a clue (where/why/how etc) informal

a) to not have any idea about the answer to a question, how to do something, what a situation is etc:

'Do you know how to switch this thing off?' 'I haven't a clue.'

Until I arrived here, I hadn't got a clue what I was going to say to her.

b) to be very stupid, or very bad at a particular activity:

Don't let Mike cook you dinner; he hasn't got a clue.

I haven't a clue how to talk to girls.

not have a clue (where/why/how etc) about

No point asking Jill – she hasn't got a clue about maths.

...

COLLOCATIONS

verbs

- provide a clue Any information could provide the police with useful clues.
- hold a clue (also yield a clue formal) (=provide one) The poem itself holds a clue about who it was written for.
- leave a clue The bombers may have left behind vital clues.
- search (something) for clues Detectives are still searching the house for clues.
- look for/hunt for clues Investigators descended on the crime scene hunting for clues.
- find a clue No one had found any clues as to where the missing girl could be.

adjectives

- an important/useful/valuable clue The car used in the robbery may provide important clues.
- a vital clue (=very important) A videotape could hold vital clues to the criminal's identity.
- a further clue (=an additional clue) They searched the surrounding area for further clues.

phrases

- a search for clues She opened every drawer in her desperate search for clues.

II. clue² BrE² AmE² verb

clue somebody ↔ in phrasal verb informal

to give someone information about something

clue somebody ↔ in on/about

Somebody must have clued him in on our sales strategy.

clue

Freakuency Pack

12500 3568^{MCW}

15000 2766^{COCA}

RANGE: 2k CLUE⁹⁸⁸³

clue 4793

clues 4387

clueless 703

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

3902 7362⁴⁷³³ nn1

44 114607⁴⁵ vvi

14 207399¹⁵ vv0