

Are you crafty?

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“Are you crafty” is a confusing question. “Craft” (arte, artesanía) you may know. Crafty has many uses, so the context is important.

To be crafty (adjective) is to have good skills or craftsmanship (destreza) at manual activities. An example:

- Noor is quite crafty: she knits beautifully or very well (...teje maravillosamente).

Crafty (astuto, pícaro, artero, ladina, taimado) has another meaning. It refers to mortals that are very clever, sometimes in a manipulative context. Sometimes “crafty” can mean devious (taimado). Also, foxes (zorros) are known to be crafty, as can be other animals.

Examine these examples:

- Mr. Johnson, the British Prime Minister, has a very crafty way of changing the rules when it suits him (...tiene una forma de hábil de cambiar las reglas según le conviene).
- Mr. Casado, the Opposition Leader, asked Mr Sanchez, the Spanish Prime Minister, some very crafty questions (preguntas arteras).
- Mr. Putin, the Russian President, is always using crafty schemes (... siempre está utilizando astutas intrigas) to expand Russia.
- Mr. Morales is a crafty negotiator (negociador astuto).

So, some mortals are crafty and crafty!