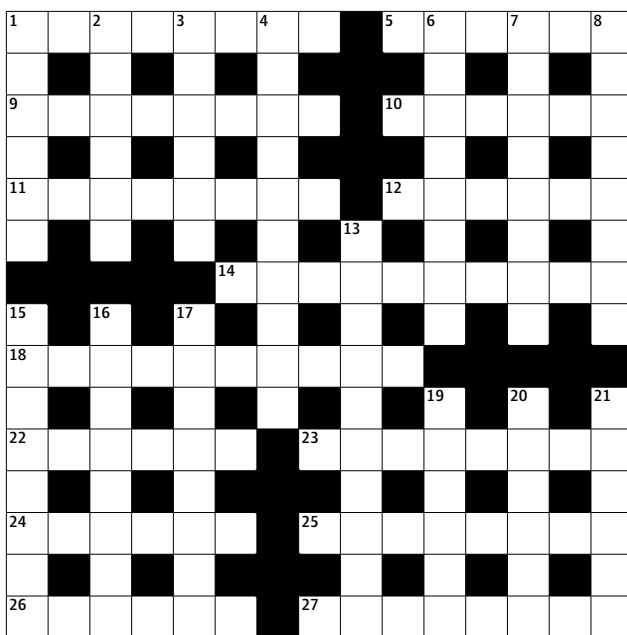


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,760 set by Auster

Across

- 1 Do remove the front of that festive headgear (5,3)
- 5 Compensate for inoperative company (6)
- 9 People being treated, say, with forbearance (8)
- 10 Stick the plug in this place (6)
- 11 Most drained one wine during trial (8)
- 12 Al's map spoiled by some of the blood (6)
- 14 A neat way to go down under? (10)
- 18 One of the ship's company has a possible cut limb (4,6)
- 22 Flowering lily initially planted in a time of rapid growth (6)
- 23 Filthy stalls containing poor bub's little bottles (8)
- 24 What President Coolidge was said to have done with liquor outlaw (6)
- 25 A speed car comes first with a hard top (8)
- 26 Sprinter, the German, remains inside (6)
- 27 Dwelling for rival not finished, housed in temporary accommodation (8)

Down

- 1 Immature creature devoured in move towards adulthood (6)
- 2 Eritrea, unsettled after losing leading athlete, has to withdraw (6)

- 3 Returns and surrenders (6)
- 4 It takes so long to retrieve computer data from MCC — easiest altered (6,4)
- 6 Musicians cooking the books? (8)
- 7 Leaves briefly with records secured by strapping (5,3)
- 8 Adolescent has unwisely eaten half of burger (8)
- 13 Emphasise stress created by university at each introduction (10)
- 15 The resting place of many an old wreck? (5,3)
- 16 We must have time to get nets in swampy areas (8)
- 17 Not moving, I'm with a crowd three quarters of a mile below (8)
- 19 A sort of bread-and-scraps? (6)
- 20 Road rage is an illusion! (6)
- 21 Right? Redistribute seats around state (6)

Solution No. 24,759

B	U	M	P	E	R	E	L	E	V	A	T	E	D
E	O	X				O	I	H	I				
V	E	N	I	C	E	B	O	N	E	L	E	S	S
Y	S	U				P	N	S	M				
			C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	I	N	O
			O	E	B	H	A	O	M				
R	I	N	G	M	A	S	T	E	R	S	T	A	B
E			E	O	L	C				E			
F	A	C	E		A	L	T	O	G	E	T	H	E
I	A	M		U	O	R	I						
N	O	T	J	U	S	T	A	P	R	E	T	T	I
A	S	S	I			B	C	K					
N	E	E	D	L	E	S		A	R	C	H	E	R
C	Y	I	T			U	E	I					
E	V	E	N	N	E	S		X	M	A	R	K	S