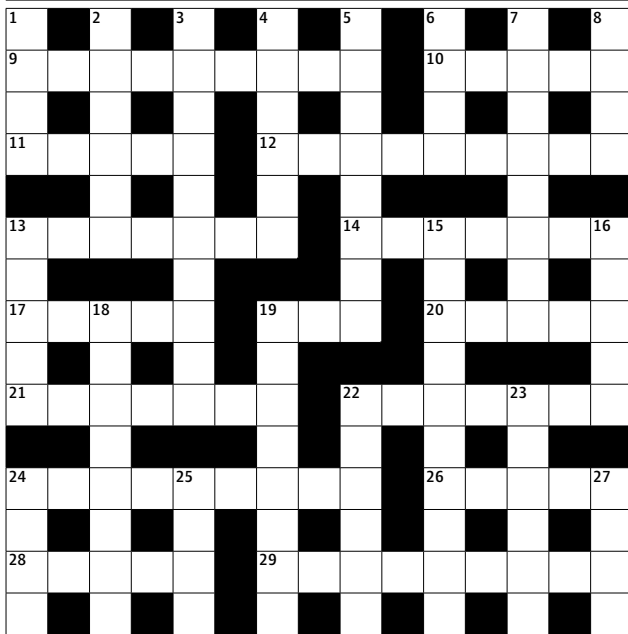


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,957 set by Crucible

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and A Clue to our Lives, worth £23.98.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 24,957, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 22 March.

Five across and ten down solutions are themed and may not be further defined

Across

- 9 It's a short walk to Lincoln to see old instrument (9)
- 10 Charlie has no place in M&S, say (5)
- 11 Fashion's getting pricier and may possibly go fast (3-2)
- 12 Poor state's almost a contradiction (3,6)
- 13,19,22 "Play for Today" (7,3,7)
- 14 They're beginning to win on Thames ground (4,3)
- 17 Tell stories about Turkey (5)
- 19 See 13
- 20 What's happening as a rule (5)
- 21 Student group remains baffled (7)
- 22 See 13
- 24 2 and 6 (once upon a time) (4-5)
- 26 Somerville and Ross collection ignored Irish (5)
- 28 Indicates nothing's missing (5)
- 29 Fabulous bargain is what every card player wants (5,4)

Down

- 1 Low attention span? (4)
- 2 Old Queen of Castile for getting to study lines (6)
- 3 Hence improvement, having swallowed tablets in dish (4,6)

- 4 19 in West (6)
- 5 More mature, we dipped into "Lady Chatterley's Lover", not quite climaxing? (8)
- 6 Runs into one (4)
- 7 Sensational spin bowled by everyone to lout, non-amateur (8)
- 8 Small island in Switzerland (4)
- 13 Roman soldier in Malta lies injured (5)
- 15 It lactates (sort of) (10)
- 16 Monsieur has to be in his own country (5)
- 18 I met Neil producing "The History Cycle" perhaps (8)
- 19 16 of these in 2 13 (8)
- 22 A thousand in cash or half that (6)
- 23 Odd venue arranged to host Beethoven's Ninth (6)
- 24 When river drops river horses find fruit (4)
- 25 Ropy sack container (4)
- 27 Matador's first accentless shout (4)

Solution No. 24,956

