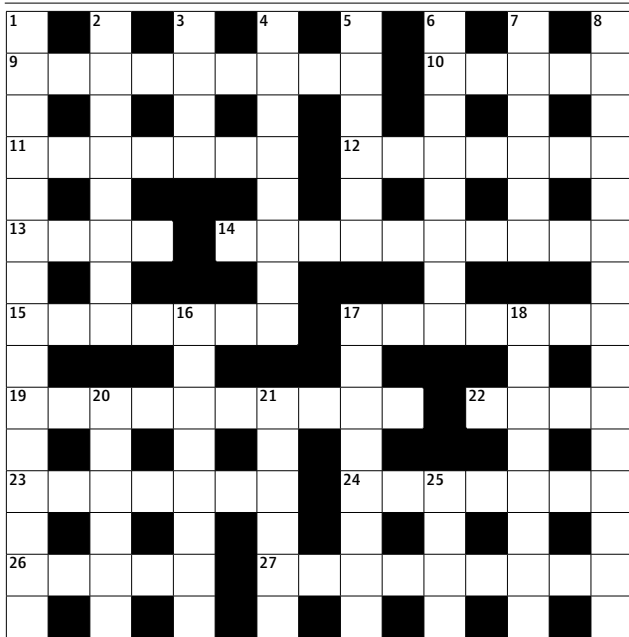


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,962 set by Rover

Across

- 9 A Nepalese, say, is earnest about monarch (9)
- 10 It's useless putting catmint in it (5)
- 11 More than one sound in cavity wall (7)
- 12 Without hesitation diced cucumbers deteriorate (7)
- 13 One of these watch chains was free on board (4)
- 14 Dolphin's friend? (10)
- 15 The crime of corrupt senator (7)
- 17 Twister whirling to and fro leaving France (7)
- 19 They provide increases for the upwardly mobile (10)
- 22 Make them pay for smuggling drug (4)
- 23 Poem composed around Elizabeth's inauguration (7)
- 24 To install firmly fix in a ring (7)
- 26 Comfort for the free slave (5)
- 27 A case a minister could be without (9)

Down

- 1 "No Smoking" notice in the Park? (4,3,3,5)

- 2 Put together a leap at the ballet (8)
- 3 Try speaking here (4)
- 4 Product of a Lancing assembly? (8)
- 5 One of the best of Paris toffs (6)
- 6 Around the M25? (8)
- 7 She was a Queen of Man (island) (6)
- 8 A fast and friendly horse (6,9)
- 16 Fixer who betrayed King Edward twice (8)
- 17 The Dogs of War? (8)
- 18 Flexible expert adopts different name (8)
- 20 It's clean'd out with a snuffer (6)
- 21 Donald's master cards (6)
- 25 Is it blown when the foreman blabs? (4)

Solution No. 24,961

