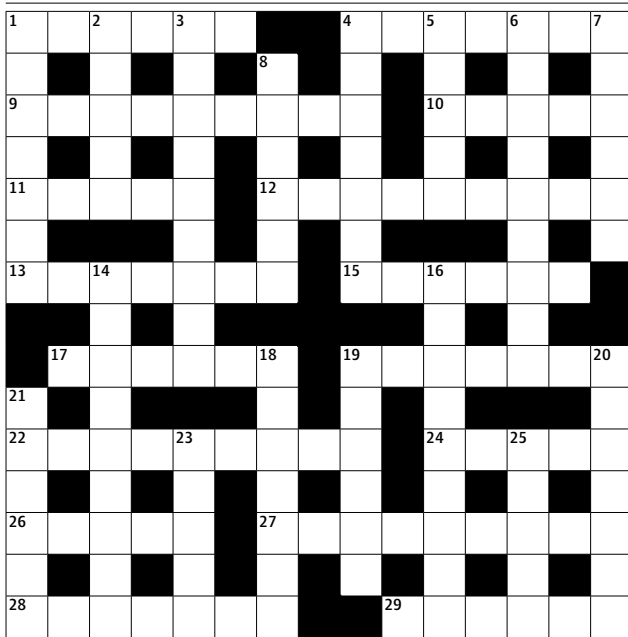


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,999 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 24,999, 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 10 May.

Across

- 1 28 and 29 dabble and dawdle (6)
- 4 Fellow actor and director in Big Apple (7)
- 9 Hole cut in poor side at Twickenham (9)
- 10 Rolls in hay for a 1 across (5)
- 11 Some worried about parking in race venue (5)
- 12 A 1 across (Crucible's favourite?) could be cast as villainous, not having one (9)
- 13 A 1 across thumped old farceur (7)
- 15 Salad ingredient is hard to chew (6)
- 17 See 29
- 19 Gather about a pound for old weapon (7)
- 22 Result has old fellow in the wrong order (3,2,4)
- 24 Pots remodelled to hide unknown errors (5)
- 26 A 1 across's special poem (5)
- 27 Father demolished housing before, following this (9)
- 28,19down Females on stage forget their words for a 1 across (7,6)
- 29,17 Almost all royalty grievously erred in backing a 1 across (6,6)

Down

- 1 Basil, say, is not the same when in the lead (7)
- 2 Punctuation expert offers support (5)

- 3 For a short while, divers help me breathe in time (9)
- 4 Man on board Queen's in good mood (7)
- 5 Oasis a help crossing this (5)
- 6 He's ambitious to get exceptional site in Riviera resort (9)
- 7 With no bird, 19 down's at home with golf on line, perhaps (6)
- 8 Trinkets cannot possibly produce a junction box (6)
- 14 A sample receives rare approval in one go (2,1,6)
- 16 1 across's product's feet not accepted in US state (9)
- 18 Scratch rear end enough to need surgery (7)
- 19 See 28
- 20 They're hot and dry courses, not small (7)
- 21 Meats go off when brought in on sabbath (6)
- 23 Chilly novel (5)
- 25 Opportunity for 12 to give plant a better chance of success (3,2)

Solution No. 24,998

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