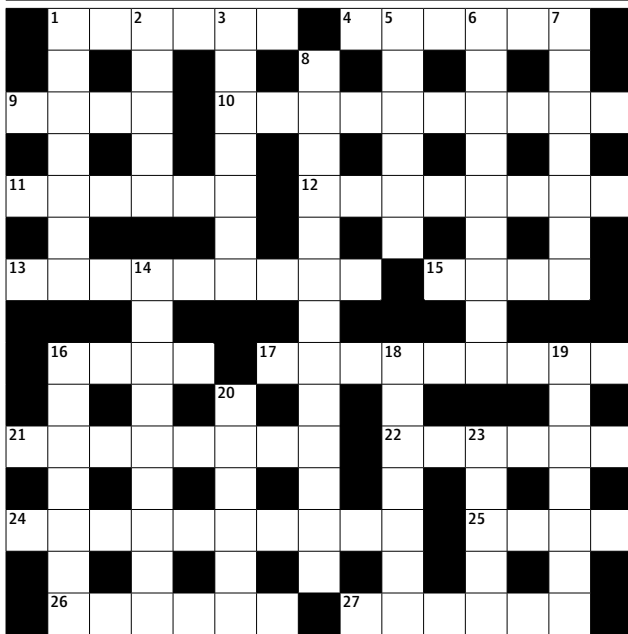


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,053 set by Puck

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 25,053, 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 12 July.

## Across

- 1 Charlie blowing a horn for each vessel coming in ... (6)
- 4 ... for each vessel sounds get better (4,2)
- 9 Mostly bisexual, including one tart (4)
- 10 Some hair in food rejected by the Queen – somebody’s head rolls! (6,4)
- 11 One-dimensional adult aboard ship (6)
- 12 See 17
- 13 I’m 80% black and so hot, dancing all over the place (9)
- 15 Some hitch a ride daily (4)
- 16 A function of envy, say, at its outset (4)
- 17,12 Ghost, often losing heart, sorted out rent account – what a strange source of inspiration for 25 2 20 (3,4,2,8)
- 21 Locate river pollution at source? It’s all uphill from here (4,4)
- 22 Book by 25 2 20, or by 20 25 2? (6)
- 24 I’m left struggling over an exam until the very last moment! (3,3,4)
- 25,2,20 Old king beheaded female that’s aroused royal musician (9-6)
- 26 Cashier catches a cold in old carriage (6)
- 27 Hot, sexy new mate replacing previous incumbent (6)

## Down

- 1 I am at home being mischievous (7)
- 2 See 25
- 3 Self-absorbed male lawyers authorised trade-off (7)
- 5 Ernie regularly has little 22 turning up for injections (6)
- 6 A black hunk caught out skipping work by 25 2 or 25 2 20? (5,4)
- 7 Roast the right beast (7)
- 8 Chief mistake – zero cut in fee for office overseas, say? (13)
- 14 12’s love of men in floppy hats (no models required) (9)
- 16 It helps to raise the water level if food has run out (7)
- 18 Dodgy “American Pie” covers penned by 22 25 2 20, initially (7)
- 19 Cover a superior song? (7)
- 20 See 25
- 23 Brown partial to a dram? Och aye! (5)

## Solution No. 25,052

