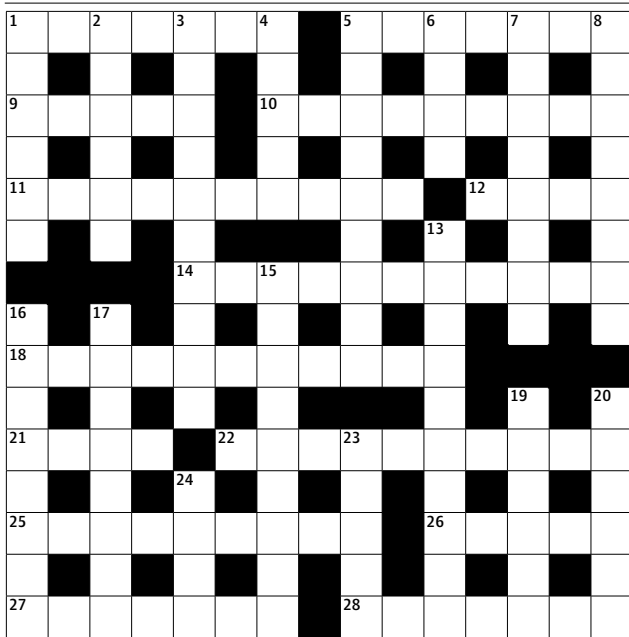


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,249 set by Orlando

## Across

- 1 Generous loan requested by Antony for Noddy's friend? (3,4)
- 5 Belt for cunning planner when king is deposed (7)
- 9 Rook takes heart from others – because these birds won't fly (5)
- 10 Wait to toss fan out (3,2,4)
- 11 Bird, insect, mammal? One that sings (10)
- 12 Motor manufacturer held back by unfavourable position (4)
- 14 Occasionally win after turning on fish? (3,3,5)
- 18 Shrub in bed with a single flower (11)
- 21 A French officer is remarkable north of the border (4)
- 22 Upset with shaven head? (10)
- 25 Bear with short pole catches the eye (6,3)
- 26 Due opinion? (5)
- 27 See seed knocked out – sports officials intervene (7)
- 28 Old Communist leader accepts fair odds – like this gangster (7)

## Down

- 1 Forlorn French leader in Basque cap (6)
- 2 Girl from Conwy's last seen in the valleys (6)
- 3 Santa in big buggy not letting anyone get cross? (10)

- 4 Family member in charge of sound (5)
- 5 Squash and spread fruit-cake (9)
- 6 John's given time to produce ill-gotten gains (4)
- 7 Again be seen to harvest fruit (8)
- 8 Chop a pine and leave quickly (3,5)
- 13 Hopeless admirer of female found a spouse (7,3)
- 15 I see a worm turn – it's so boring! (9)
- 16 Damned ringleader framed by one on trial (8)
- 17 Way to play in musical rejected by Roman statesman (8)
- 19 Mike's novel? "Love in a Cold Climate", one's found (6)
- 20 Movement uniting female soldier with second-in-command (6)
- 23 Figure worshipped by child upset me (5)
- 24 Doing nothing – taking some unpaid leave (4)

Solution No. 25,248

