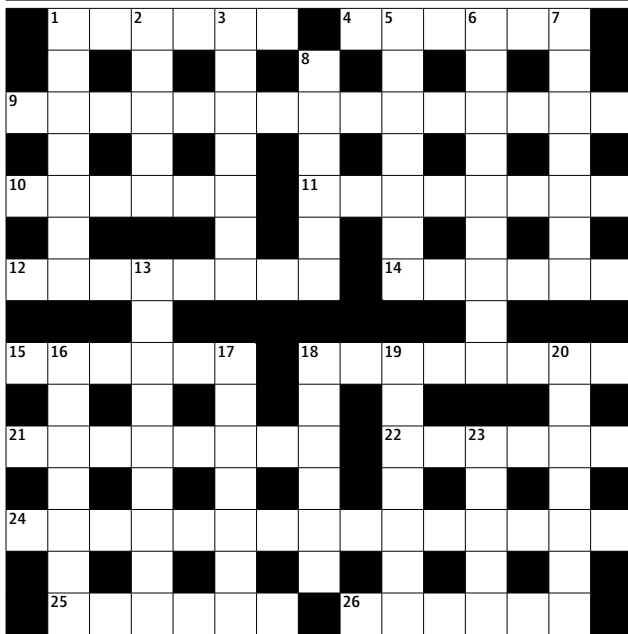


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,316 set by Paul

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 25,316, 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 16 May.

Across

- 1 Placed on rear of babies, one of these, quick! (6)
- 4 Staff facility turned over sacred text (6)
- 9 Miss penny in price after a short time for slower service (6-5,4)
- 10 Country code secreted by girl, detailed (6)
- 11 Making a comeback, friend boxing? (8)
- 12 Top Welsh tourist destination (8)
- 14 Tough coating handle in wood, dropping end (6)
- 15 An item caught by journalist, treated badly (6)
- 18 Swimming, notices a man in the water (8)
- 21 Dangerous woman a degree cleaner (8)
- 22 Pronounced metaphor that clashes (6)
- 24,3 Into smacking, if I then propose shaking, the results should confirm it (3,5,2,2,3,7)
- 25 Ashes here including Emburey's ultimate spin (6)
- 26 Tap's partner wasn't him then? (6)

Down

- 1 Mahler's head squeezed between buttocks lifted a composer (7)

- 2 Bouquet of marjoram or aniseed arising (5)
- 3 See 24 across
- 5 Free from blame for crack found under a book (7)
- 6 With this, 24 3 (5,4)
- 7 Want baked beans, cold, on edge of plate (7)
- 8 Old coin, gold, in cut stone (6)
- 13 Disease is given little time in pre-med, unfortunately (9)
- 16 Tight hold from Spooner's head louse? (4,3)
- 17 Centre of Motown tried out - found here? (7)
- 18 Top bar in restaurant to provide water flask (6)
- 19 In North America, island, island, island, island capital (7)
- 20 Knife man's wound heals into hollow scar (7)
- 23 Artist to get one's teeth into (5)

Solution No. 25,315

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | H | E | R | B | O | U | R | G | A | D | D | U | P |
| H | S | L | S | O | D | R | E | | | | | | |
| A | L | P | H | A | E | M | A | N | A | T | I | O | N |
| P | L | C | L | B | M | L | F | | | | | | |
| S | H | A | C | K | L | E | T | O | N | S | L | U | R |
| | N | M | S | U | B | I | | | | | | | |
| S | E | A | B | A | S | S | T | O | A | S | T | I | E |
| H | D | G | | | | | S | A | N | | | | |
| A | T | E | L | I | E | R | P | L | E | A | S | E | D |
| K | | C | U | A | J | K | | | | | | | |
| E | D | G | E | M | I | S | S | M | U | F | F | E | T |
| A | O | J | N | S | M | O | R | | | | | | |
| B | A | R | C | E | L | O | N | A | P | U | R | G | E |
| L | S | S | U | G | E | C | N | | | | | | |
| E | V | E | N | T | S | P | E | A | R | H | E | A | D |