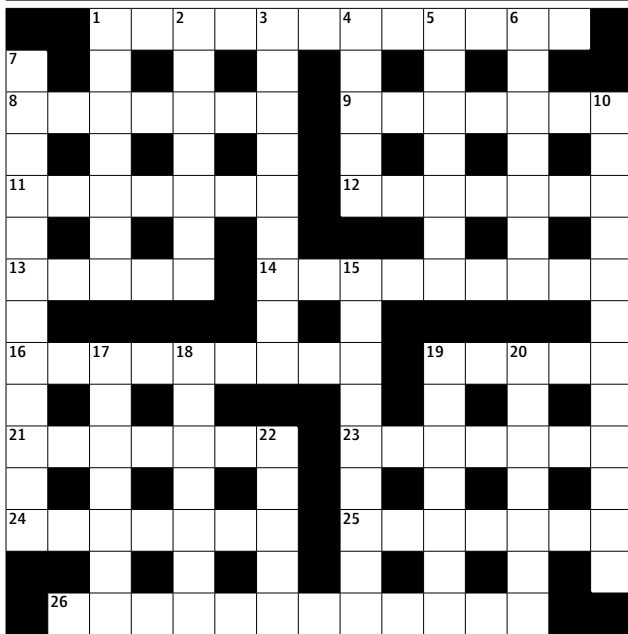


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,502 set by Araucaria

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 25,502, 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 19 December.

## Across

- 1 Catcher accepts unfinished poem: don't talk to the messenger (12)
- 8 Little boy sees good solver's much extended (7)
- 9 Popular protest leads to convulsion (7)
- 11 She doesn't say what there is (7)
- 12 Pet for boy from Barcelona (7)
- 13 Fish has left woodwork at gate (5)
- 14 Get in line, say, for game across the Thames (3,6)
- 16 Go to a museum, perhaps, even if it's free? (3,1,5)
- 19 Little one left in tower (5)
- 21 Slough disposal is after its first during reversion of Indian groom (7)
- 23 Draw a model for area (7)
- 24 Philosopher abandoning both extremes for very noisy derivative (4-3)
- 25,26 Change round in the morning: phone company books men to deride innocent victim (1,4,2,3,9)

## Down

- 1 Sunburn for man like the ground to a wheel? (7)
- 2 Last year's leaders keep carnivore on spec (7)
- 3 Fellow with divisions in road, reportedly – he gets burnt (3,6)
- 4 Submarine detector sounds like small boy (5)
- 5 Beast gets hot on Dutch dam (7)
- 6 Brock's home was first to be colonised (7)
- 7 Kit's here, stupid! The man's a journalist (7-5)
- 10 Rule about little room at first needing scrubbing (12)
- 15 Successfully? It's not the end of the world (4,1,4)
- 17 Language of heart-throb after rise of homework (7)
- 18 Sticky 6 from Liverpool didn't finish (7)
- 19 A few lines – got some between the teeth (3,4)
- 20 Three bachelors, real weird, that will talk too much (7)
- 22 Capital seat accommodating setter (5)

## Solution No. 25,501

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