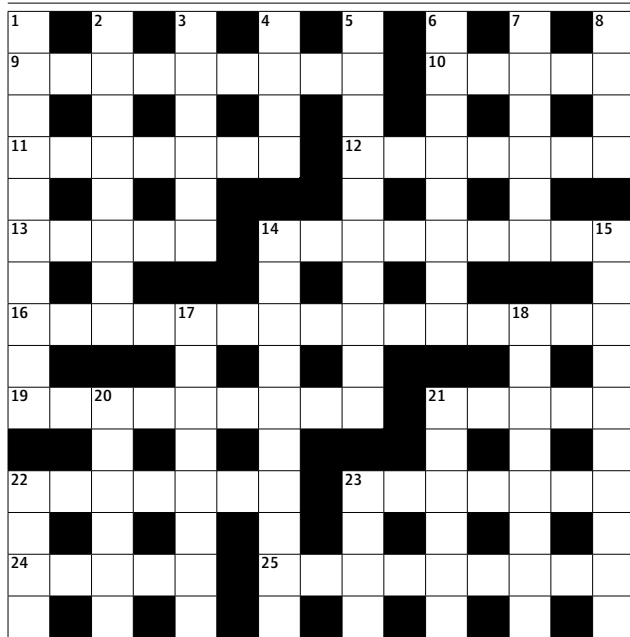


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,520 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 25,520, 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 9 January.

## Across

- 9 Protean alien revolt put straight (9)
- 10 US city where I badly hurt back (5)
- 11 National average about this number, a hundred (7)
- 12 Old fast train slowing into stop, reversing (7)
- 13,20 Orange, perhaps, after stop, then green light over a 11 artist (5,6)
- 14 If screwing back, proper weapon required – so get out cue (4,5)
- 16 Old show for the young, delicate creature in decline, ticker going first? (5,4,6)
- 19 Sounds like agricultural worker hacked off a long, tapering item (9)
- 21 See 3
- 22 Bird that doesn't apply for Italian city (7)
- 23 Infant playing with toy in the shade (4,3)
- 24 More red deer are ready to eat (5)
- 25 Teary time in the embrace of sexy chap, scratching rear (9)

## Down

- 1 Among fools, setter's bid to appear vacant leading to acts of withdrawal (10)
- 2 One following around by being clumsy (8)
- 3,21across 11 fighter fish almost eaten by supporter (tail ignored) (6,5)

- 4 European steering mechanism under discussion (4)
- 5 Soiled sheets on this – tuck in elevated edges, red (10)
- 6,7 Perfect tree to climb? No, needing to shoot at a 11 revolutionary (8,6)
- 8 Thoughtful Wagnerian issue, perhaps? (4)
- 14 Female, free love inspiring alias, odd characters in hell for 11 artist (5,5)
- 15 Commercial centre getting mail sorted (10)
- 17 Trip, poison taken in honourable death, not half (8)
- 18 Traditionally when orange wedges served, could it be me? (4-4)
- 20 See 13
- 21 Fruit grown here in actual houses (6)
- 22 Ferry repeatedly taking heart from port (2-2)
- 23 Old man's uprising that's 11 (4)

Solution No. 25,519

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