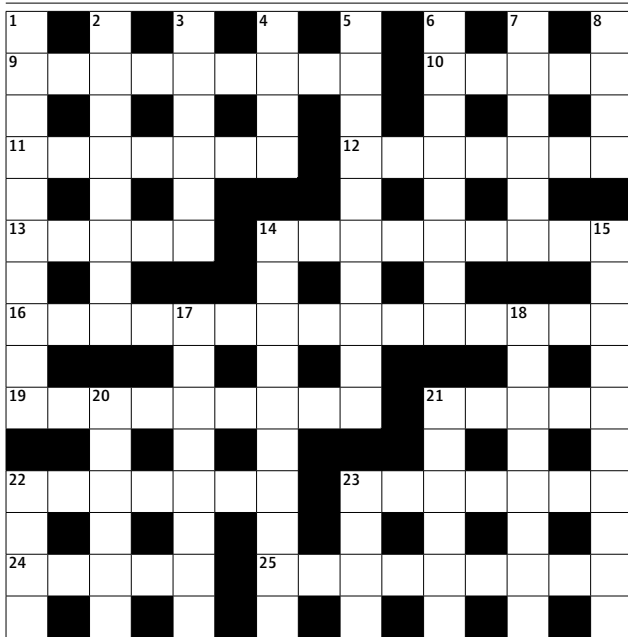


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,562 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 25,562, 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 27 February.

Across

- 9** Tree providing cover in the middle of a kingdom (5,4)
10 Girl getting diamonds cut in time (5)
11 Didn't rush boy about to tell a story before dinner starts (7)
12 I reflected about girl being too old (7)
13 See 4
14 Most fastidious sort of diet – it's not allowing for starters (9)
16 Fiancee limit: one-off, never to be repeated? (4,2,1,8)
19,21down Where one is kept in for ENT observation (9,6)
21 Resin from joint buddy? (5)
22 Romanian readies animal to go around unknown city (7)
23 Order some bananas with drink (5,2)
24,8 Cat returns with secret source of sweetener (5,4)
25 One caring about lack of awareness (9)

Down

- 1** Tree destroyed a lawn? So odd (10)
2 Greek girl in elegant style, topless (8)
3 Disease that is found in some Scotsmen? (6)

- 4,13** Drug-free hell? Bad luck! (4,5)
5 Puck's set in place a punishing task (10)
6 Drug writer put in mostly lower case (8)
7 Vocal onslaught from Siamese? (6)
8 See 24
14 Row about inexperienced doctor in item destined for notice-board? (7,3)
15 See 23
17 Air conditioning devices reordered – essentially wrong size, one's admitted (8)
18 Making 5 grand (8)
20 Time to complain, say it's a pain (6)
21 See 19
22 Stroke of luck – after seeing horseshoe, openings appear (4)
23,15 Help! Instep hurt playing game (4,3,7)

Solution No. 25,561

