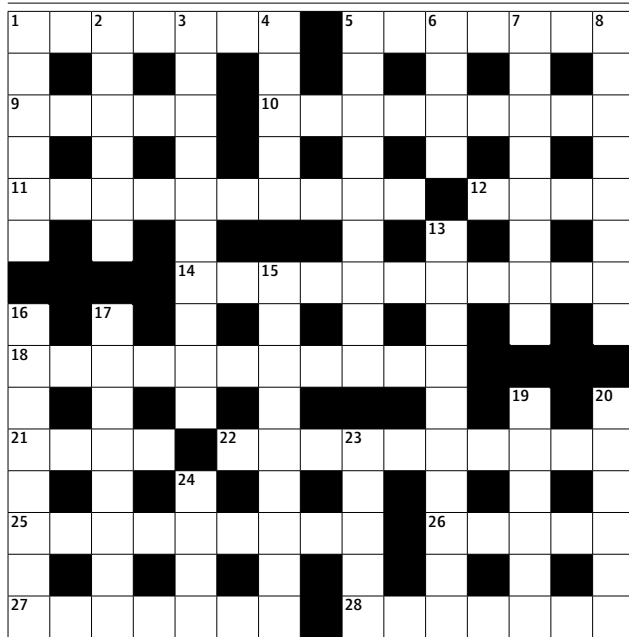


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,831 set by Paul

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 25,831, 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 7 January.

Across

- 1 Desire to hold member quite close? (7)
- 5 Crossed lines in hospital department after the best tool (7)
- 9 Cricketer's ending with an item of his as capital (5)
- 10 See 27
- 11 Crook lied and inmate murdered (10)
- 12 Black and white monster caught about half way across zebra crossing, knocked over (4)
- 14,28 Bank part of this 2 1, perhaps? (11,7)
- 18 Great floods possibly dispersing – about time! (6,5)
- 21 See 6
- 22 One in a suit after a short cut, a banker no more (3,7)
- 25 Raw egg I flipped onto granny's back – that being the plan! (9)
- 26 One's served time as a political defector, perhaps? (2-3)
- 27,10 County requiring supreme woman to get in there – reminder on president's desk? (3,4,5,4)
- 28 See 14

Down

- 1 See 2
- 2,1 Teacher fighting for accommodation in rent review – 27 10 (6,6)

- 3 Two grunting bonkers – that's worth a look (10)
- 4 Underwear on a prophet (5)
- 5 One, before entering upcoming depression, was enterprising (9)
- 6,21 No players available then, but a solitary person? (8)
- 7 Those of similar maturity go and argue about pedantries, primarily (3,5)
- 8 Looker that's sweet? (3,5)
- 13 Drop in here to see publicist (5,5)
- 15 Same symbol, man underlining it in black (5,4)
- 16 Writer, for example, is inset, surprisingly (8)
- 17 I earn (but dubiously) as a City gent (8)
- 19 Boss hot on composer, unpinned? (6)
- 20 Good, unpleasantly wet, small bottled port (6)
- 23 Make money as senior master? (5)
- 24 Lover's front talked about (4)

Solution No. 25,830

