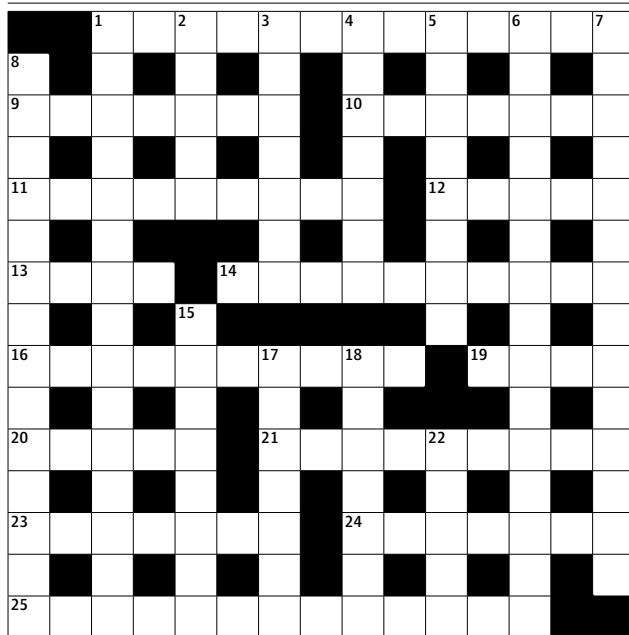


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,855 set by Philistine

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 25,855, 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 4 February.

Across

- 1 Briefly, with a moment shared: "How do you do?" (5,8)
- 9 More dismal, avoiding half that's right (7)
- 10 Winner posed after eating beef stew (4,3)
- 11 Said to be 40, fast and of top quality (9)
- 12 Game without front elevation (5)
- 13 Suitable for returning swarm (4)
- 14 Headed east to order: "No fishing here!" (3,4,3)
- 16 Robots care about language (5-5)
- 19 Provide resources for entertainment at Land's End (4)
- 20 Transport system, the first to go chaotic (5)
- 21 Desperate wish to run round garden, not starting off wonky (4-5)
- 23 Not one of two or three in disarray (7)
- 24 By cupboard love (5,2)
- 25 Pares back hopeless business with 50% cuts, making for trouble getting off (13)

Down

- 1 Up and down journalists found in seedy

dive during cinema production (5-10)

- 2 Should one heal oneself, using exercise? (5)
- 3 In school it's brave to cry (7)
- 4 Presumed one sent outside (7)
- 5 Fancy top and slip in actual consultation (8)
- 6 Buggery? It's a personal matter (7,8)
- 7 Engineer fit handle on approval – no 25 here (2,3,4,2,3)
- 8 What ITV master needs badly (14)
- 15 Where one might find cosmetic treatment for car and driver (4,4)
- 17 Booklet: What to do next (7)
- 18 Outlines are essential to wallpaper customers (7)
- 22 Reported difficulty in one piece (5)

Solution No. 25,854

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