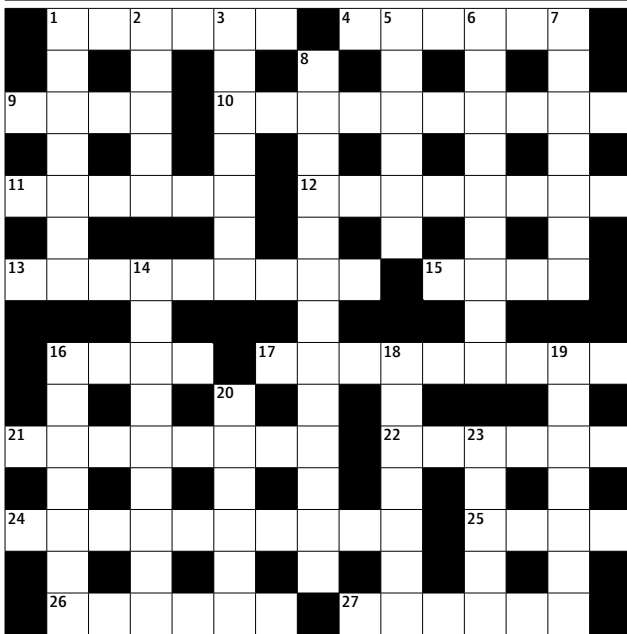


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,857 set by Qaos

Across

- 1 Friend backs golfer, then folds (6)
- 4 Grounds for a divorce? At first it's a mix-up (6)
- 9 Test for a learner? (4)
- 10 Artist turned and entered: "I can't act romantically; the atmosphere's frosty here" (10)
- 11 Drink squash (6)
- 12 Maybe Cameron and Osborne conceal explosive ideas (8)
- 13 Actress Jessica sorts out Big Bird (9)
- 15 The perfect sweet? (4)
- 16 Jonathan Ross, say, talking of space where people start (4)
- 17 Spooner's cheese looks like fishes (3,6)
- 21 Coaches condemned divers after acting by Suarez, primarily (8)
- 22 Meltdown result for Sheen ... (6)
- 24 ... wild man is paid and gets in round, which leads to alcoholism (10)
- 25 Line from pointless joke (4)
- 26 Lodgers get us rent on Sunday (6)
- 27 Unkempt Boris muffles answer – it shows constant pressure (6)

Down

- 1 I cry, all upset and emotional (7)
- 2 Captain is first into bed (5)

- 3 Panic over Spain's strike (7)
- 5 Rising Republican cuts wings off essential Big Bird (6)
- 6 Fix note to end of Coleridge's rime: "... then wander without horse" (9)
- 7 Old and new Conservative regularly likes wearing fake tan (7)
- 8 Individuals following US politicians? (13)
- 14 Clothing for a soldier's baby? (4,5)
- 16 Early water raised commotion with golf union (7)
- 18 British concert artist covers sad rock songs (7)
- 19 Sailor's rime – a Royal Navy jingle? (7)
- 20 Mrs Romney's man? They say he's retired from public life (6)
- 23 Quiet caress in the garden? (5)

Solution No. 25,856

