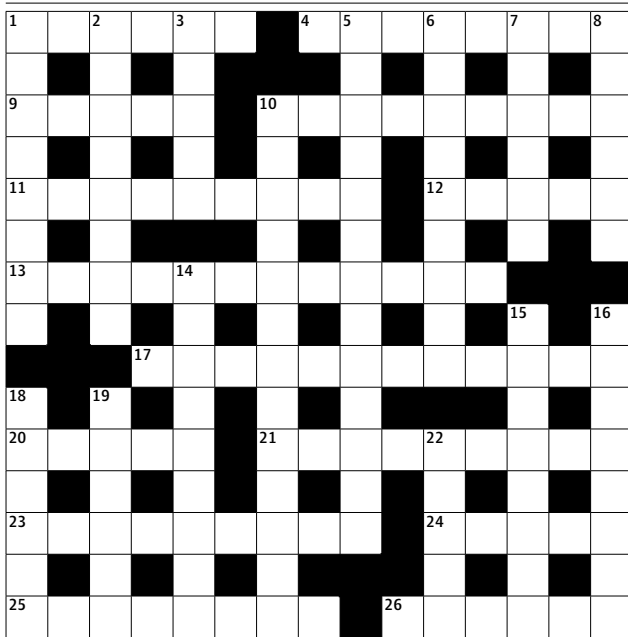


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,869 set by Gordius

## Across

- 1 State of the art – an impediment without direction (2-4)
- 4 Politician in winter sport is being mean (8)
- 9 Moral degeneration in the mouth (5)
- 10 The in thing is outrageous size – get it? (9)
- 11 Domineering lady has a short trip during the month ... (9)
- 12 ... where it all happens over a long period (5)
- 13 One directed back to German city eating cat food (12)
- 17 Arthur feels Lancelot initially refined oil cleaner (7,5)
- 20 State one returns to as a fool (5)
- 21 It is clear and could be true to life (9)
- 23 Goat head, a sort of pumpkin down under (9)
- 24 Church ladies' outfit to wear off duty (5)
- 25 Term sees alternative terminology across the pond ... (8)
- 26 ... where help turns to record Obama's conversation (6)

## Down

- 1 In muddled head reminder turns up to get Mother's Pride? (4-4)

- 2 Everyone in the race gets a drink, which is hard to believe (4,4)
- 3 Animal of Romanic or Gipsy stock? (5)
- 5 Philosopher covers nocturnal sin by gallants of old (7,6)
- 6 English student managed somehow to get to college (9)
- 7 Setter's about to stay in the same place (6)
- 8 Entry to the French is a piece of cake (6)
- 10 Accepting nothing (4,9)
- 14 Like the hordes who don't matter so much? (9)
- 15 Satisfied with a quantity of fuel (8)
- 16 Squeal about wine being execrable (8)
- 18 Aura of game on public transport (6)
- 19 One suffers with two lads (6)
- 22 A doctor within two feet (5)

Solution No. 25,868

