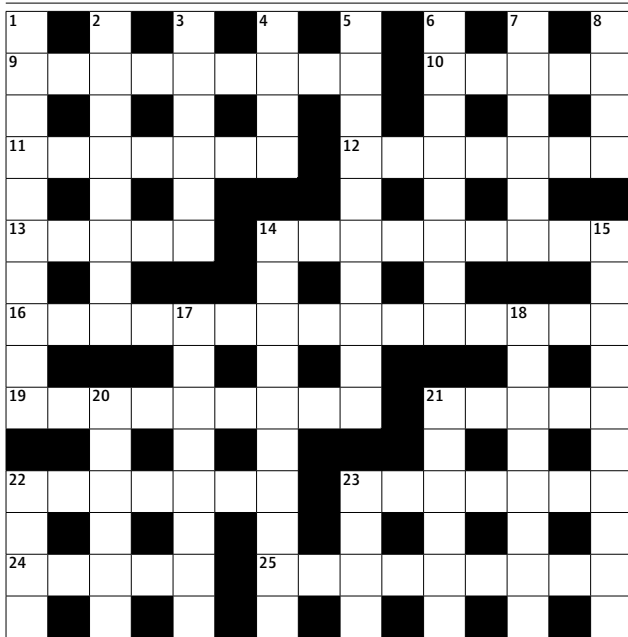


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,923 set by Qaas

## Across

- 9 Aggressive, fiery smash takes point with winner (2-3-4)
- 10 A coalition party's current excuse for failure (5)
- 11 Henry is entering bike race? The French might be prickly (7)
- 12 Bill enters rambling races and walks (7)
- 13 Romney's upset to squander Republican capital (5)
- 14 A tiny bit sweet, hard to swallow: alternately a lollipop? (9)
- 16 It pays to be ill (8,7)
- 19 Birds, we sense, get excited about love and little weight (4,5)
- 21 Seaside town not fashionable, nor good value (5)
- 22 Make a noise with this awfully long note (7)
- 23 Might he use claw to grab wench's bottom? (7)
- 24 Sullen from a vitamin deficiency? (5)
- 25 Smell of deer and cologne? Go away to freshen up! (9)

## Down

- 1 ITV screens "101 Turning Twisting Messi Tricks" (10)
- 2 Armstrong's conclusion after cyclist loses halo: "I cycle nice and clean" (8)
- 3 Fairly fair? (6)
- 4 Computer network: electronic pathway (4)

- 5 Clear foul: Luxembourg tripped Bale! That one could remember (10)
- 6 Maybe Boycott is in, so can't bowl over (8)
- 7 Ambassador carries identification with duke's name concealed (6)
- 8 Long for fabulous story to be narrated without a lisp? (4)
- 14 Soldiers must seek order without hesitation (10)
- 15 Early birds found here at Cheshire mill (10)
- 17 What's up after the Sun's daily circulation dips? (5,3)
- 18 Old 13's distant object (8)
- 20 Scots say low gravities, they might raise the spirits (6)
- 21 Gastropod with half a shoe? (6)
- 22 Flies beware being caught up in these (4)
- 23 Policeman gives up port and finally solves cases (4)

Solution No. 25,922

