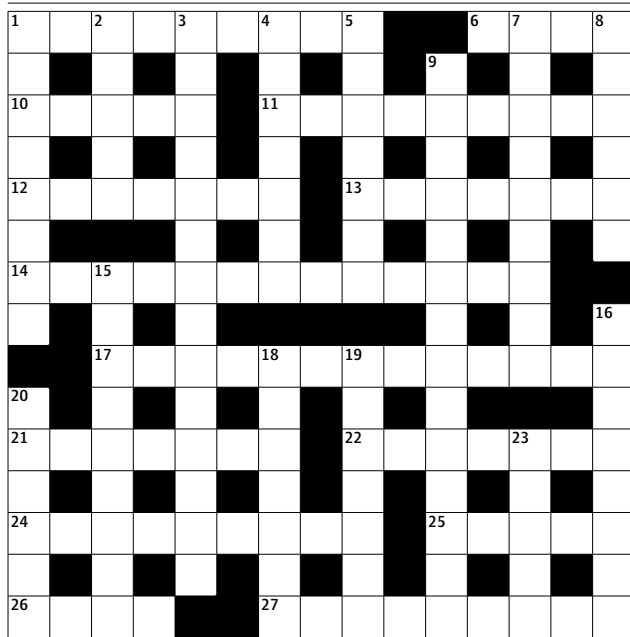


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,981 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 25,981, 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 1 July.

Across

- 1 Murky ratholes housing black anteater (5,4)
- 6 A game breeder (4)
- 10 Eighteenth channel, perhaps, running back from an organ (5)
- 11 See mistake, reduced cost next to nothing (9)
- 12 Privileged individual in communist is revolutionary (7)
- 13 Getting all those in attendance into shelter, one succeeds (7)
- 14 US concert venue, Spooner's pit for all-singing, all-dancing entertainment? (9,4)
- 17 Boycott's indomitable spirit, perhaps, that keeps Bradford's roads passable in winter? (9,4)
- 21 Why the punishment? (4,3)
- 22,8 Duck stuffed with trimmings of roast deer cooked for a stickler for naval etiquette? (13)
- 24 Perception of physical attributes failing to impress Amy, I suspect? (4,5)
- 25 Fashionable to write crosswords as a secondary newspaper feature? (5)
- 26 Get some stick? (4)
- 27 Damage is down to a tree (9)

Down

- 1 Reliable hand (8)
- 2 Napoleon's speech in breaking sanctions (5)

- 3 Surgery on thyroid and facial features primarily cause of congestion? (7,7)
- 4 Restriction that's overturned nothing to excite me (7)
- 5 Corrosion was in the van, so took stock (7)
- 7 Detail the villain squeezing lightly at first, as strangler (9)
- 8 See 22
- 9 Paul helping to support Central African area, welcoming opening of land mass (14)
- 15 Natural sunblock ideally in jars (9)
- 16 Wind I treated, repeated! (8)
- 18 Better proposition under squire, every so often (7)
- 19 Hearing top foreign number, undaunted, Eurovision songstress timidly starts (7)
- 20 Singer's inspiring front lifted, appearing cheap (3-3)
- 23 Chain exhibited in magistrates' court (5)

Solution No. 25,980

