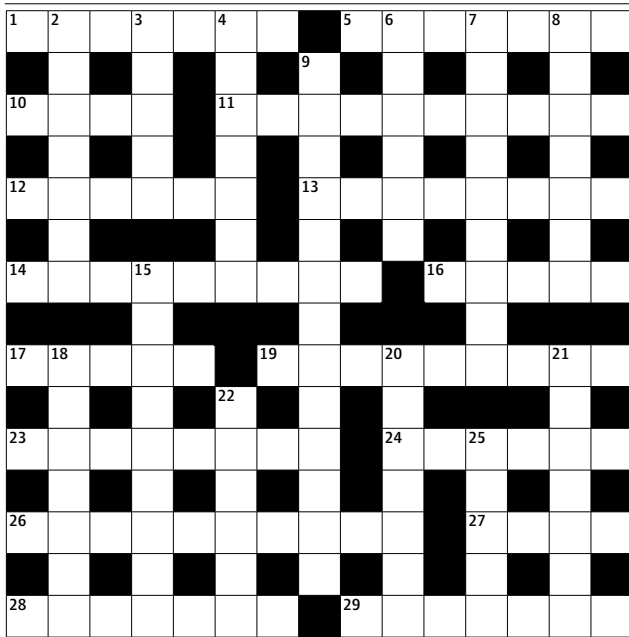


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,012 set by Rufus

## Across

- 1 Where they wash French articles without water (7)
- 5 The cup-holders? (7)
- 10 Light joinery? (4)
- 11 A fight, but nobody is charged (4-3-3)
- 12 When speaking, gathers crowds (6)
- 13 Avengers may explode deadly weapon (5,3)
- 14 Sleeping partner? (9)
- 16 Flourish in US state prison (5)
- 17 Hit number (5)
- 19 Freeloader surgeon prepared to accept credit (9)
- 23 A metaphor is mixed but its content is pithy (8)
- 24 One of two – or one in three, perhaps (6)
- 26 A habit that will keep one dry (10)
- 27 Summon attendant (4)
- 28 It's beastly being a long time in one occupation (7)
- 29 Position of jockey produces a certain pace (7)

## Down

- 2 Fat and foolish, said Poe (7)
- 3 Barely visible (5)
- 4 Denial of fault in the show ring (7)

- 6 Maintain a strong company (6)
- 7 Ascertain unusual view of a philosopher (9)
- 8 New pop CD – free! (7)
- 9 Check for mortar to be used in fortification (13)
- 15 Out of one's mind (9)
- 18 Prevail over island uprising, being efficient (7)
- 20 Cover removers in action at start of cricket match (7)
- 21 A thousand accepted by university award, set up and developed (7)
- 22 Nominally commit oneself to work? (4,2)
- 25 Fall off in a spill (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,005

