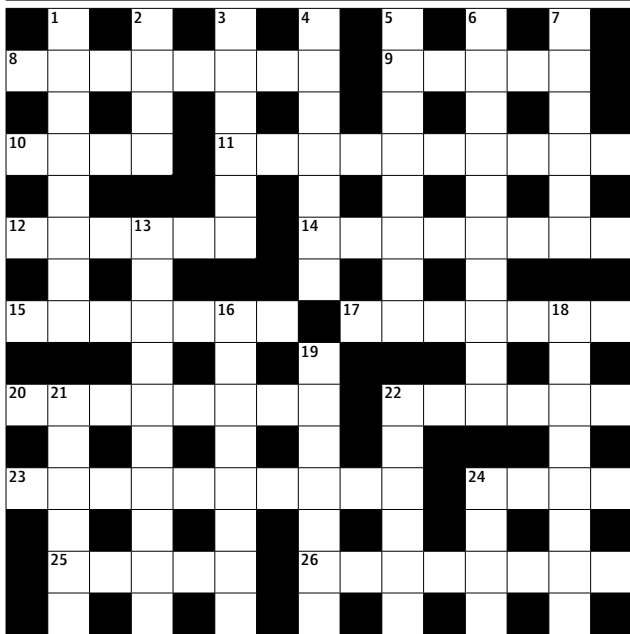


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,053 set by Brendan

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 26,053, 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 23 September.

Across

- 8 Banter about a couple of things wanted on course (8)
- 9 Create stink with article that's proverbially erroneous (5)
- 10 You are reportedly in hospital with temperature, injured (4)
- 11 Reached conclusion about numbers of Romans being malicious (4-6)
- 12 Good behaviour, we hear, in areas around stations (6)
- 14 I have put back piece of furniture that's possible to avoid (8)
- 15 Curse that's part of Bible, in 4 19, as are ten other answers (7)
- 17 In a practical sense, team that's not careless (7)
- 20 Temporarily halt start of play after second side's changed (8)
- 22 Wrongfully nailed, producing no confession (6)
- 23 Section of island a man searched in part of Indian Ocean (7,3)
- 24 Leave droppings of carnivore, small one (4)
- 25 Like part of a certain tree – a king hid in one, desperately (5)
- 26 Facility for addicts initially is unveiled by doctor in public (5,3)

Down

- 1 Greek character with pistol held up police (8)

- 2 Players attempt to make a catch (4)
- 3 Organic compounds forming chains, perhaps, apart from first time (6)
- 4 Final book, having been abridged, is edited and altered (7)
- 5 Excellent husband cutting flower (8)
- 6 Doctor mentioned a change for the better (10)
- 7 Multinational organisation we will cut is in poor shape (6)
- 13 Soldiers love appreciation, when blunder's covered up (5,5)
- 16 Firmly establishes earnings must be adjusted (8)
- 18 University academic leader upset about club that's still going strong (8)
- 19 I must replace last piece of poem on account of one person (7)
- 21 Took flight, thus, with miles to redeem (6)
- 22 Lie and improperly admit to one kind of school (4,2)
- 24 Body a medic's turned over (4)

Solution No. 26,052

