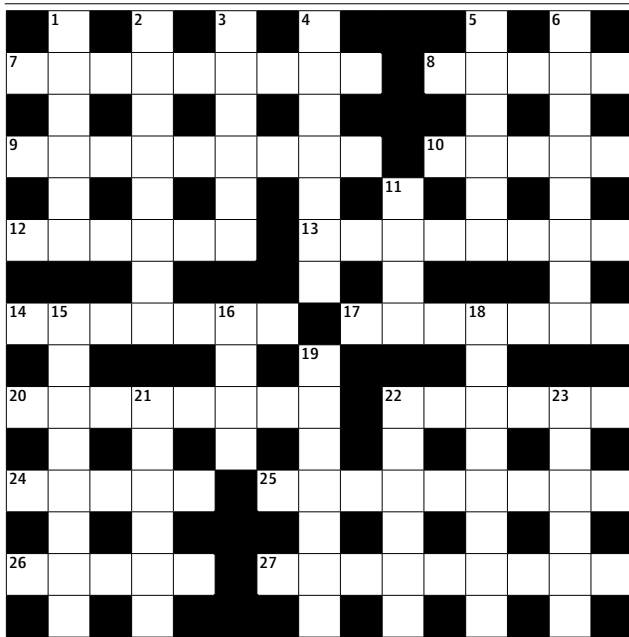


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,060 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 Routine disguise for army scout (9)
- 8 Wrest apart and scatter (5)
- 9 Keep dark for a set period (9)
- 10 Drink brought back by mother from holiday resort (5)
- 12 Search frantically for means of support (6)
- 13 Business expense that has gone up? (8)
- 14 Unscrupulous person retiring to rest, perhaps (7)
- 17 Study exam question (7)
- 20 Firm left to slip into bankruptcy? (8)
- 22 This French rebel is a red (6)
- 24 Legitimate student expelled with dire result (5)
- 25 Clerk to confine drug pedlar (3-6)
- 26 Finger the back of a book (5)
- 27 Complain loudly about schooltime left – it may be grinding (9)

Down

- 1 Unusual for us to gossip (6)
- 2 Sharp pains produced by needles (8)
- 3 It is included in a doctor's rounds (6)

- 4 Horace set about female – his main opponent? (4-3)
- 5 New act with hat and stick (6)
- 6 Of course, there's no choice with these (3,5)
- 11 He goes down or rises as the star (4)
- 15 Robin to indicate complicity in trick (8)
- 16 See key goes to the agent (4)
- 18 Novel is remote and tedious (8)
- 19 Old soldier – there could be a few neater characters (7)
- 21 Hardy, no: evergreen, yes (6)
- 22 A good conductor works on the beat (6)
- 23 Times of enchantment (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,053

