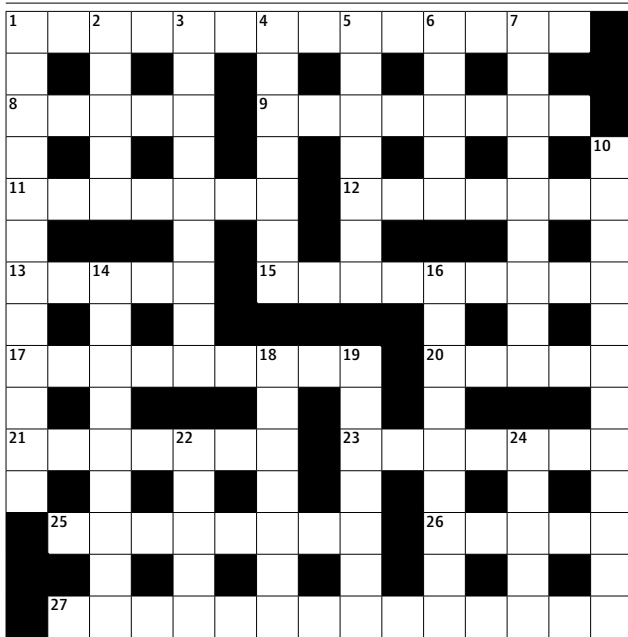


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,069 set by Pasquale

Across

- 1 Severely punish, making someone accept work forcibly? (5,3,4,2)
- 8 Drink coming in dribble at back of pub (5)
- 9 Region of intellectuals including exceptional lad (8)
- 11 American philosopher, this writer entertained by Elizabeth and Charles? (7)
- 12 Any number put in rank alongside Eastern VIP (7)
- 13 Past would include gross conduct you'd expect from yobs (5)
- 15 Action of bailiffs in school? There's anguish, not half, about that (9)
- 17 Someone who is ignored – object? (3-6)
- 20 Bank at sea? Say nothing, little troublemaker! (5)
- 21 Big leader off, free to move around as outcast (7)
- 23 Cricketer outside his own country, spinning in theatre of combat (3,4)
- 25 Games I'll run, sticking to the rules excessively (8)
- 26 Section of rock, cold material (5)
- 27 One chum gets one agitated and all that sort of thing (2,3,5,4)

Down

- 1 Social conventions awfully stern, restricting competent fellow (5,7)
- 2 Sound of horse in river (5)
- 3 Ethos went sloppy – one should get things sharpened up (9)

- 4 Sheltering in coal scuttle is little primate (7)
- 5 Derek, an artist, establishing wine stores (7)
- 6 Order whale-hunter to finish early and beach in time of war (5)
- 7 The final minutes of football? That could briefly make our tour! (5,4)
- 10 Among atheists he is pink (4,2,6)
- 14 Neglectful learner out getting drunk to sink towards the floor (9)
- 16 Others with agitation mounting about Conservative limits (9)
- 18 Time to get stuck into a bit of dressmaking or cooking? (7)
- 19 Journalist gets first sniff of scandal probing cardinal (7)
- 22 Fertiliser put on with summer month coming up (5)
- 24 Nothing holy? Hesitation to give biased description of people's religion (5)

Solution No. 26,068

