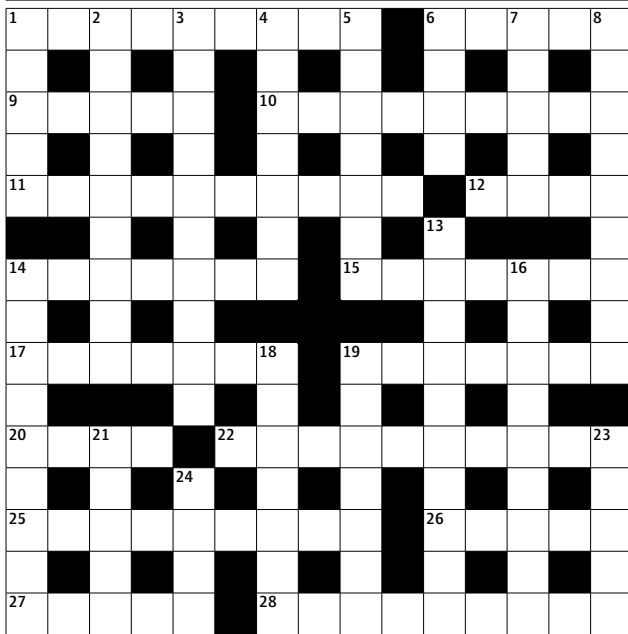


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,131 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 26,131, 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 December.

## Across

- 1 Sound warning to fly-tippers in central strip (9)
- 6 A shoe back to front, unacceptable (5)
- 9 Pointless northern river (2,3)
- 10 See 26
- 11 Was implausibly perfect individual wearing underwear backwards charged? (10)
- 12 Change, as turner turns (4)
- 14 Stop the music (7)
- 15 Space rock – sensible to pass round it (7)
- 17 Crazy lovers? (7)
- 19 Variety of techniques allowed in head (7)
- 20 One's overlooked one's ground (4)
- 22 People are rude about nothing – you can bet on it! (10)
- 25 Start cycling to Nigeria (9)
- 26,10,24 Tommy Cooper? (1,4,2,7,4)
- 27 Desert channel (5)
- 28 Plant drug effectively (9)

## Down

- 1 Moneylender protected by law on gambling (5)
- 2 Hangover cure, medicine for pub, if somewhat contrary? (9)
- 3 Final point speaks of wave crashing on a Phuket beach? (10)

- 4 Someone initially abducted by alien, heading off to see the master (7)
- 5 Noblewoman expected short game (7)
- 6 252 gallons for a fish (4)
- 7 Sure to jump (5)
- 8 Open present where I'm pointing? (4,5)
- 13 Author, a turkey playing chicken? (4,6)
- 14 Thug overcome by bird, his men drunk? (5,4)
- 16 Take turns to make neat? (9)
- 18 Great Olympian catching leader in aquatics, American behind swimmer (3,4)
- 19 Come before partner only starting to withdraw (7)
- 21 Author like Usain Bolt? (5)
- 23 Top author in part of Surrey (5)
- 24 See 26

Solution No. 26,130

