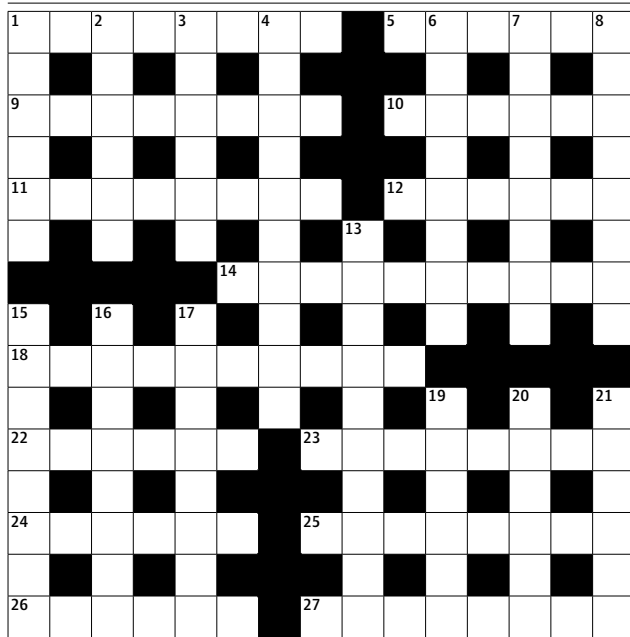


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,142 set by Crucible

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 26,142, 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 6 January.

Fourteen solutions need a seasonal adjustment before being entered in the grid, resulting mostly in non-words.

Across

- 1 Fletcher's cellmate stole 50 German variations (8)
- 5 Poet translates Lorna Doone's first letter (6)
- 9 Drain Scotch? Feel benefit mostly (8)
- 10 Stop early during strike (4,2)
- 11 Weathermen occupy steelworks (8)
- 12 Up out of bed but not here, so I'm told (6)
- 14 Actor can these days cram in the worst parts (4,6)
- 18 Wealthy comic holds deposit back for The King's Speech feature (3,5,2)
- 22 Northwest town's clapped-out transmitter (6)
- 23 Maidenhead exports English cask to East Jerusalem, say (4,4)
- 24 Refurbish room with centre of column in gilt (6)
- 25 Motorway load diverted through former European principality (8)
- 26 Carpets Sunday school installs without warning (6)
- 27 Watch man that goes into orbit (8)

Down

- 1 Turn left to study appearance of 24 (6)

- 2 Hug lovelorn idiot in close (6)
- 3 Picked up rock, a comparatively heavy type (6)
- 4 Both sides take ecstasy first of all, showing kinship (10)
- 6 Extensions to do with north Wales ground (8)
- 7 Harry told his granny: "I'm boring grandad" (3-5)
- 8 Stop city centre hotels blocking upland (8)
- 13 Sign for forward exclusively – Wayne "Loony", perhaps? (3,3,4)
- 15 Tinny PA's last to be scrapped in South America (8)
- 16 Actor Gary goes round without granny (3,5)
- 17 Argue about Manchester City's old rules (5,3)
- 19 Loud start, awfully loud middle, quiet close (4,2)
- 20 Philosopher accepts 5 euros for Joe's 4WD (6)
- 21 Odzooks! Look up for the last time (3,3)

Solution No. 26,141

