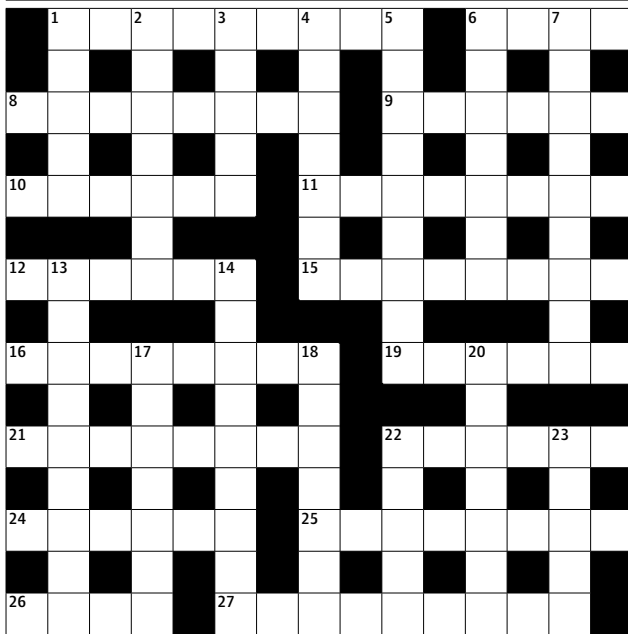


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,178 set by Imogen

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 26,178, 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 17 February.

## Across

- 1 A difficult crossword book (4,5)
- 6,26 Heroines – pursued without energy (8)
- 8 Raise pincers back to front: where does one get those from? (8)
- 9 Instruction to players in northern team when one short (6)
- 10 Criminal kidnaps extremely naive heroine (6)
- 11 Maybe pet, having got dry, needs drink (8)
- 12 Did a little jogging, almost free (6)
- 15 One said to be dead cross about love receiving answer (8)
- 16 Gave news of my divorce? (8)
- 19 Author brings a number to the Guardian (6)
- 21 A possibility of acquiring a daughter? (8)
- 22 Man judge hopes will swing (6)
- 24 Poet has extra line for heroine (6)
- 25 Dwarf's back home wearing shortened swimming costume (8)
- 26,1down Heroine wanted to speak to Parliament (9)
- 27 Drink bowl of soup noisily; this 1 of 5 a day? (9)

## Down

- 1 See 26

- 2 Welshman holding cask does not reveal content (7)
- 3 Plot development in second part of novel (5)
- 4 Heroine loses a ring in wild country (7)
- 5 Wonderful month goes with a big bang (9)
- 6 Not all clothes end in tatters, coming from China (7)
- 7 Was judge burning to talk to underling? (9)
- 13 One plated up, giving off aroma including herb (9)
- 14 Woman heartily contrite, suffering a lot of weight (6,3)
- 17 Not being pure, program gave false answer (7)
- 18 Such a worker dealing with admin extremely crisply? (7)
- 20 As welcome to elite force, I'm passed up raw flesh to eat (7)
- 22 Military rulers some days need appreciation (5)
- 23 Heroine's parking on the grass (5)

Solution No. 26,177

C	A	T	C	H	U	P	B	U	L	I	M	I	C	
L	R	I	U	R	O	O	R							
O	C	E	A	N	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	
T	E	T	K	W	L	I	O							
H	O	T	E	N	A	N	N	Y	E	F	F	S		
O	F	R	R	P	I	O								
			B	L	A	N	D	I	S	H	M	E	N	T
I	C	A	E	C	A	R	E							
S	P	R	I	N	G	G	R	E	E	N	S			
O	O	D	L	T	E	S								
T	O	S	H	W	E	S	T	W	A	R	D	H	O	
O	S	I	C	I	S	I	L							
P	R	E	S	B	Y	T	E	R	I	M	B	U	E	
I	Y	I	E	E	E	L	N							
C	R	E	A	S	E	D	D	I	S	S	E	C	T	