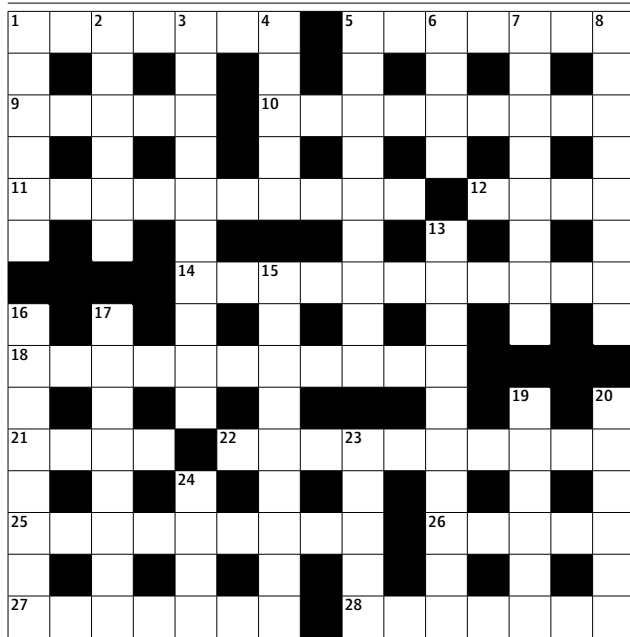


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,202 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 26,202, 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 March.

## Across

- 1 Offensive type poking face using fingers (7)
- 5 Fool with photo that's captured hot lesbian (7)
- 9 Couple behind attack, one disappearing as more than one spoke (5)
- 10 Knowledge about bartending finally clear, these glasses handled (9)
- 11 Juvenile presidential candidate once in anything but decline (10)
- 12 Round piece of meat with its ends trimmed (4)
- 14 Tommy musical making a comeback – that's helpful (2-9)
- 18 Israeli leader needing Russian vehicle for programme of reforms (11)
- 21 Total class (4)
- 22 People on the left with kipper for fish (3,7)
- 25 Freeze put on very ordinary commentary (5-4)
- 26 Drink given to right-wingers on the ball (5)
- 27 Labour leader, joining Tories after a reshuffle, acts suspiciously (7)
- 28 Inspiring love, witch mounted soldier (7)

## Down

- 1 Foreign port, city south of Germany (6)
- 2 Boy sponsored thug to catch policeman (6)
- 3 Bag in gents, for example, that's round in a testicle, possibly? (6,4)

- 4 Initial of Iris in name that's come up for flower (5)
- 5 Quiet houses good, it's contrarily plain (9)
- 6 A boat to boot! (4)
- 7 The aim, almost all letters noxious – with this? (4,4)
- 8 Brave, brave man passing through outskirts of Cannock with ease, they say? (8)
- 13 Stoker penning three articles on a group of girls (10)
- 15 On reflection, the Guardian sure loves to appear inept (9)
- 16 Month eating first of poached eggs like this, OK (8)
- 17 Questionably, RC naif to install existing pope (7,1)
- 19 Meter fitted to car went in thus (6)
- 20 Greek restraint regularly seen, when overcome by credit (6)
- 23 Read about a game one's played (5)
- 24 Place for the Guardian Crossword in further education (4)

Solution No. 26,201

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