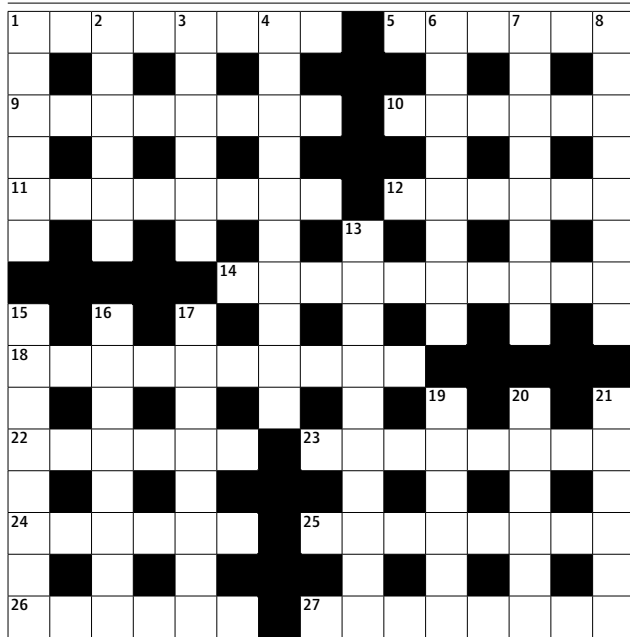


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,205 set by Logodaedalus

## Across

- 1 Down with the exploit – better half’s not mine! (8)
- 5 Greek island has a snack, three-way design (6)
- 9 With hat turned round, girls show they let us choose (8)
- 10 Reluctant breeders turn to gloomy snooze (6)
- 11 Too soon to swallow half of greasy brew (4,4)
- 12 Doctor erects what should be known to few (6)
- 14 House plant meant dull respectability (10)
- 18 Miss end of week, an office slave like me? (4,6)
- 22 A king splits tights, rough when he has his say (6)
- 23 A legal right put down and put away (8)
- 24 Britain of old: “no bail out” formed its basis (6)
- 25 Darlings so small, when seen in porcine places (8)
- 26 Outlandish hat he’s shown and dress for dame (6)
- 27 I refute hugging a bird called what’s-her-name (8)

## Down

- 1 Scarce gifted, I twitch body, leg or arm (6)
- 2 Both tall and pure, both can’t begin to charm (6)
- 3 Respect a house that hides a head of gnomes (6)

- 4 Lecturers cool, so we like tales or tomes (10)
- 6 Learned from a rebel, topping endless mice? (8)
- 7 Out getting bread mix, deaf to all advice (8)
- 8 Sat I held fast by boy, but I might bite (8)
- 13 Stopped keeping pale, just like a wrong put right? (10)
- 15 Small breakfast nuts for those of brainbox breed (8)
- 16 “Peer wants lamb stewed” – words you may skip or read (8)
- 17 I’m not on fire: the creeping runner said it (8)
- 19 A college boss who holds me in discredit (6)
- 20 These sandwiches may make you twist in pain (6)
- 21 New US state suggests a cattle strain (6)

Solution No. 26,204

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