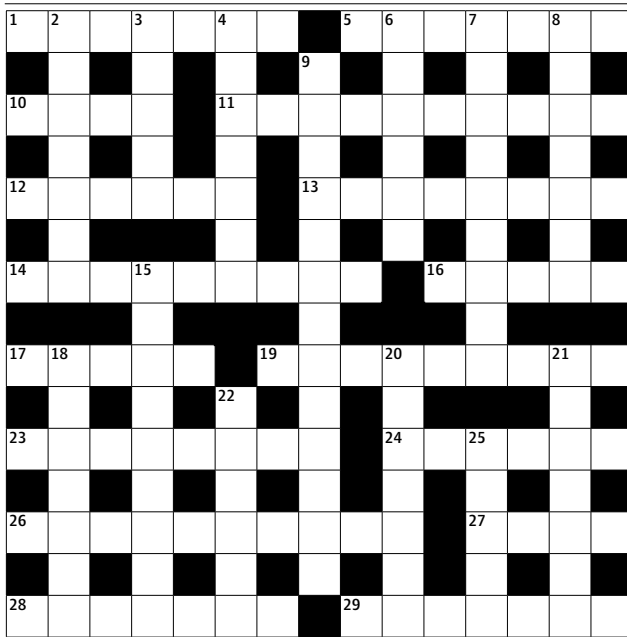


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,245 set by Rufus

### Across

- 1** Type of fiction unfamiliar to the French (7)  
**5** Soldiers ordered to secure equipment (7)  
**10** Split lease? (4)  
**11** It's cold in the country – get a fur (10)  
**12** Run a horse in Maine (6)  
**13** Employees in steelworks making components (8)  
**14** Many cheer reformation of Satan (4-5)  
**16** One may turn over in bed (5)  
**17** Special constable confronts a politician – a troublemaker (5)  
**19** New net cord starts tight (9)  
**23** Applaud catch? Cods-wallop! (8)  
**24** Friend tucked in, showing good taste and enjoyment (6)  
**26** They act unthinkingly, placing a plant needing warmth in a sickly sun (10)  
**27** Artist in outlying Middle Eastern country (4)  
**28** Herald, a court official, at home (5,2)  
**29** Start breeding birds and dogs (7)

### Down

- 2** Outdoor opera in review (4-3)  
**3** Non-striking bonus (5)

- 4** An upholder of the Bible (7)  
**6** Sharp practice used in court proceedings (6)  
**7** Almost endless subject of experiments (6,3)  
**8** Removed lease included in legal document (7)  
**9** Iron out a bottleneck, for example (5,8)  
**15** What's made for maid engaged in housework (9)  
**18** Standard award for sporting prowess (7)  
**20** Deadlock in which the devil takes almost full advantage (7)  
**21** As played by the advanced tennis player? (3,4)  
**22** Designer label unusual for Marian (6)  
**25** Not standing for falsehoods (5)