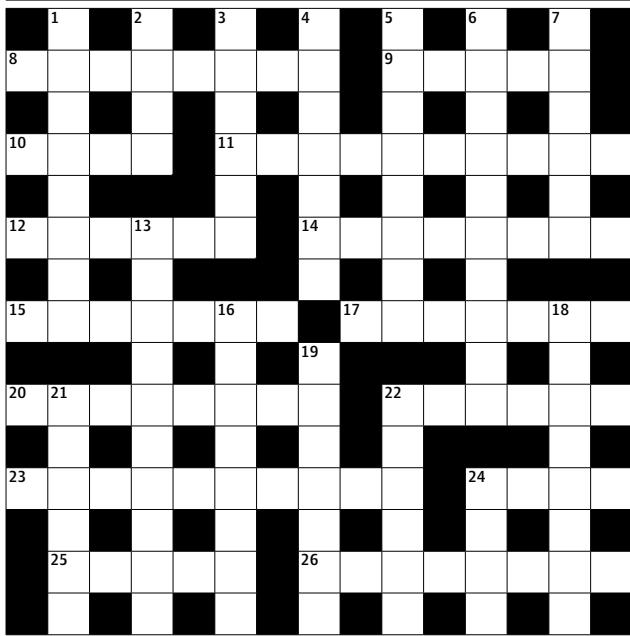


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,262 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 26,262, 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 26 May.

Eight thematic solutions, forming four pairs, are clued without a definition (sorry!)

Across

- 8 Prominently display constipation cure? (8)
- 9 Shed blood that's good to drink (5)
- 10 Very pale coconuts here (4)
- 11 Does it suggest teacher is boring? That's criminal conduct (10)
- 12 Storm brewing in it? (6)
- 14 A sign on six cages (8)
- 15 Tour changed to skirt bad street artist (7)
- 17 Invite to tango, bumping daughter sideways (7)
- 20 After a month, relative drops in – he's on target (8)
- 22 A salad for vocal exponent of 11 (6)
- 23 Poetically, east to north (10)
- 24 Alcoholic virtually parking in the bar (4)
- 25 The wrong way for Greek character to be buried in the earth (5)
- 26 Now settled, but exhausted (8)

Down

- 1 Roughly object to acquiring computer language (8)
- 2 Wish one could be like diplomat missing nothing (4)

- 3 Dog taken over police station without lead (4,2)
- 4 Express enthusiasm, not ecstasy, holding tot up (7)
- 5 Clothes an American soldier's given up to saint (8)
- 6 Pressure on an emperor to move – one should take a capital (6,4)
- 7 Notice about liberation movement's spirited meeting (6)
- 13 Lose nerve and smart, energy being put into whip (7,3)
- 16 Drink number one taken in shelter (8)
- 18 Hard case needs resolution (8)
- 19 Get this to go away – it's complicated (7)
- 21 Stir Up Sunday passed over by a lecher (6)
- 22 Is wild animal able to bite? (6)
- 24 Child has first to grow (4)

Solution No. 26,261

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