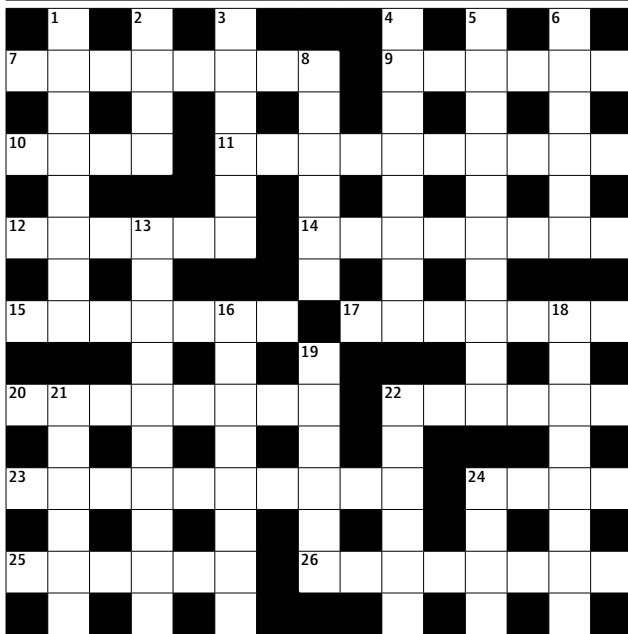


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,286 set by Tramp

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 26,286, 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 23 June.

Across

- 7 Praise a storage medium with energy drink inside (8)
 9 With following surprising score it's out of our hands (6)
 10,24 Ultimately, England home before their postcards: relatives hide (8)
 11 Lost Stevie G in poor showing (10)
 12 It's used to pull women in closed boozer (3,3)
 14 Repeats Italian scores around English (8)
 15 Playing with Pirlo as star (7)
 17 Rather late to drop wingers – one can shoot (1,6)
 20 Like mischievous conduct? Close to Manaus, training site is hot (8)
 22 Get good 10? Italian legend (6)
 23 Concerned with the runs in one area, old Roy Hodgson initially worried (10)
 24 See 10
 25 Do take off – Cole's gutted (6)
 26 They get hot in sun chasing lead? (8)

Down

- 1 City church to house master's old image of Christ (4,4)

- 2 Film type of girl essentially turned on at the start (4)
 3 Right to divide dodgy gear – stocking up with one? (6)
 4 Most agitated keeper conclusively struggles in goal (8)
 5 Sport sacking with tie lost (3,7)
 6 Dive over nothing and waste time (6)
 8 Sweet European girl (6)
 13 Worth going down in this exchange? Take score and extra time (4,6)
 16 Main part for viewer, hard to watch for audience (5,3)
 18 Left first class, back to England, home to get attacked (4,4)
 19 To him, even missing finals is appropriate (6)
 21 Relax, Italy, it's hot (6)
 22 Post covered by Balotelli, ball's hoisted (6)
 24 Soaks up sweat (4)

Solution No. 26,285

