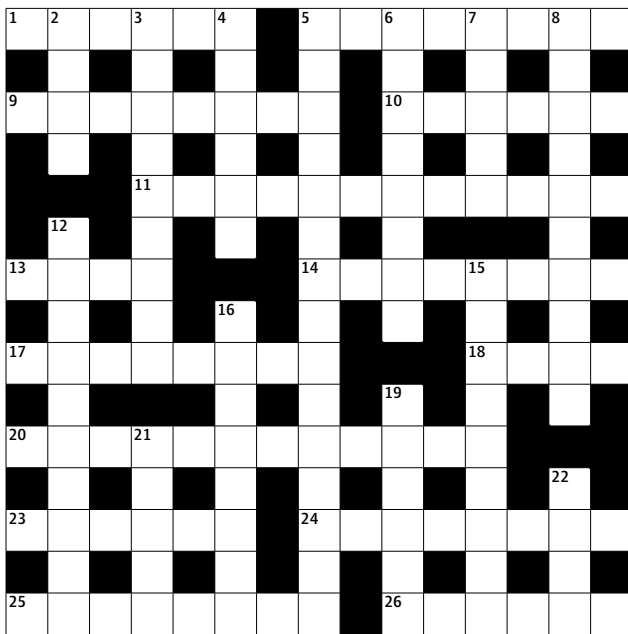


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,741 set by Crucible

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 26,741, 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 7 December.

Five across and seven down solutions involve, wholly or in part, some of 5 down and lack any further definition; 5 down itself is undefined.

### Across

- 1 Force a writer to absorb Republican material (6)
- 5 Attempts to stifle objection (8)
- 9 Long sleeper put out, spanning old room (8)
- 10 Broadcaster hosts current politician, revealing lots (6)
- 11 He's fascinated by dates, or miso, cooked with gluten (12)
- 13 Heartless deeds (4)
- 14 Resolve what cross may mean at a financial centre (8)
- 17 Shots from short distances don't win in competitions (5-3)
- 18 Small animal refuge (4)
- 20 Priest boxed here, for instead of against (12)
- 23 African country rings airline to find island (6)
- 24 Left a hotel and swindled a second one that's snooty (3-2-3)
- 25 Mostly train a bird in film to make buns (8)

26 Southern county (6)

### Down

- 2 A cyclist (4)
- 3 Gulf citizens infringe rights (9)
- 4 Start to chase game (6)
- 5 (See special instructions) (3,7,5)
- 6 Audacious place to sail off Cowes (8)
- 7 Consuming funny bar in the morning (5)
- 8 Describing display is up to politician (10)
- 12 Arrest bishop taking drug (10)
- 15 Thus was Caesar's Gaul in special novel (9)
- 16 Scot ordered to stop dirty stuff (8)
- 19 Popular board game finishes early (6)
- 21 Nice money once smuggled into football club (5)
- 22 Loud song (4)

Solution No. 26,740

