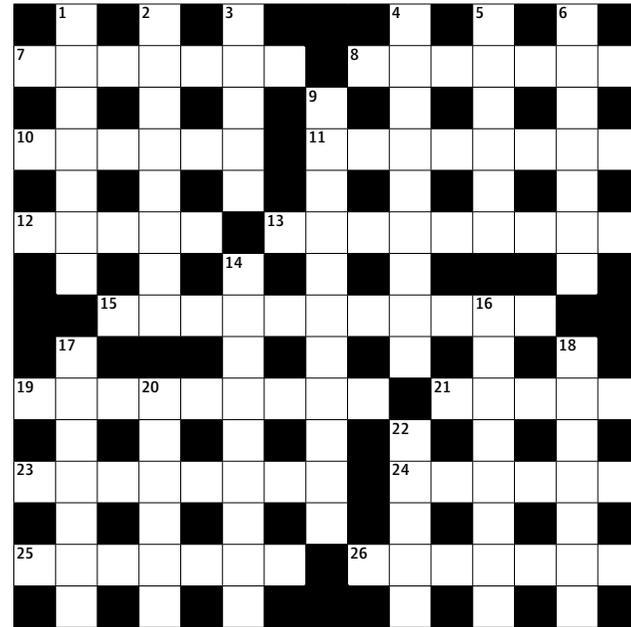
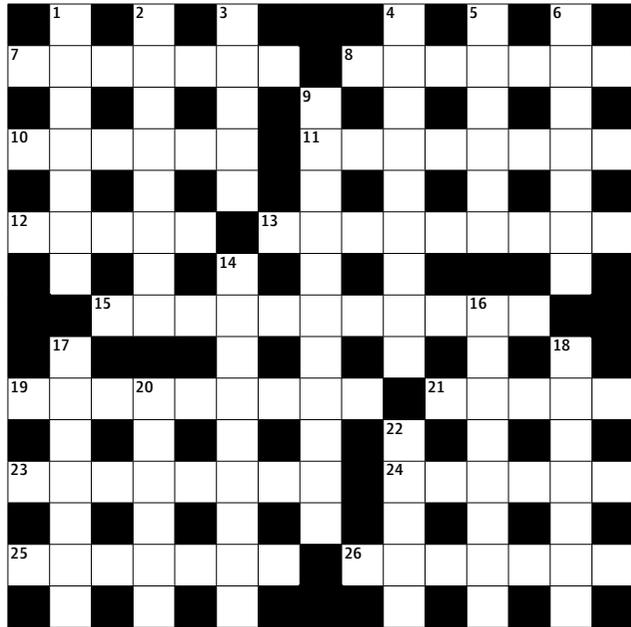


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,448 set by Maskarade

Each clue consists of two parts, the first referring to the solution for the left-hand grid and the second for the right-hand grid. However, one letter must be added to one of each pair of solutions before entry in its grid. All 26 letters of the alphabet have to be added once and the 26 new words thus formed are neither further defined nor clued. The letter counts after each clue refer to the solution, first, for the left-hand and, second, for the right-hand grid.

Across

- 7** Was heartless, left a leading tutor with terribly poor student to start with – that's fate (7;7)
8 US sports player, one from HQ, linked with forward daughter under the sheets (7;7)
10 Queen's make-up showing a pinch of colour – a bit of white included (6;6)
11 Greens and last of the medlars cooked for rustic pageants – no good, sadly (8;8)

- 12** Vegetables seen with potato topping, mashed with cheese Berliner oddly supplied (5;5)
13 Character from Italian seaport, chorister, begs union leader to enter reactionary Congress (9;9)
15 Neat tailor affected adjustment to sleek appearance with special purity (11;11)
19 Red canon arranged such a survey having seen tiger wandering in reserve (9;9)
21 Small county idiots with children outside foreign capital (5;5)

- 23** Musician at bar and beam is irritatingly angry (8;8)
24 Give views showing compliance regularly for Patsy and two lads (6;6)
25 Publicity department departs – tarted up small gallery having accepted university sculpture (7;7)
26 Be swindled when a customer at a dog's home apparently, hit hard by price that drunkard suggests (3,1,3;7)

Down

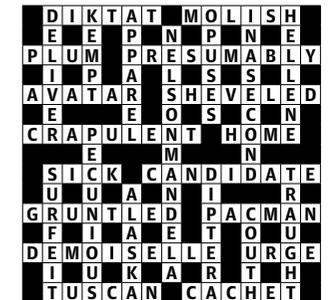
- 1** Comrade – Stan's – at Scottish house, showing skill with Irish cooking (2,5;7)
2 Flame-coloured gem, one of pearl, variegated one in cherry

tree, concerning viewer? (4,4;8)

- 3** Rail network between Vendôme and Trocadéro having curved junction, mate (5;5)
4 Barrel I removed from maître d' on strike, doing without board in trim smithy (5,4;9)
5 Conservatory, not round, was off-centre getting TU's agreement (6;6)
6 Fruit, black fruit and flowers open out in early spring, primarily (7;7)
9 Courtroom subtlety genetically engineered embezzlement that involved police at United Nations (5,6;11)
14 Vetoes reversed images of harbour gate – not half! That's steep (9;9)
16 Cough up too much for bowlers' wages and travel bag – it causes trouble (8;8)
17 Novel compiler having to get rid of the summer in France! (7;7)
18 Wicked small function – almost perfect! – having live teams, moreover (7;7)

- 20** Some Lancaster University members up for season as visitors and workers (6;6)
22 Wanton lad left meat savoury and a larger part of French wine on French plane (5;5)

Solution No. 26,447



The first 10 correct entries drawn win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 26,448, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on **Wednesday 31 December**.
 Solution and winners in the Guardian on Friday 2 January.

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