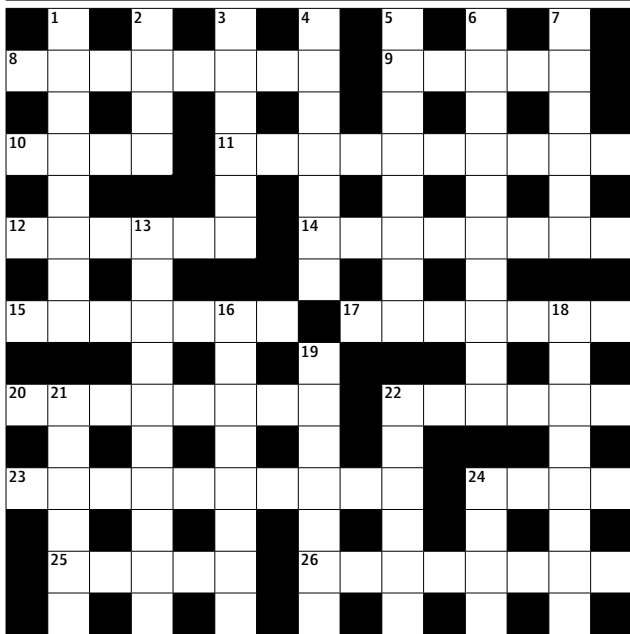


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,167 set by Araucaria

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and A Clue to our Lives, worth £23.98.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 25,167, 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 22 November.

Half the clues work thus: "Constructed criminality" would lead to BUILT/GUILT, "Liquid grinder" to MILK/MILL and "Life-changing river" to FILE/NILE. Either may be the correct solution to enter in the grid, but the 26 squares of the perimeter need to contain all the letters of the alphabet, which will determine the correct one to be entered.

Across

- 8 Disease of horses in Belgium (8)
- 9 Muslim scholars' rule may be disclosed (5)
- 10 Leave clothes (4)
- 11 Beast's owner gets a sovereign and a penny (4,6)
- 12 Wave tree (6)
- 14 One with lute, B playing – that would be B flat (4,4)
- 15 Condense bird (7)
- 17 Denial of nearly failing mind (7)
- 20 Pirate doesn't finish nasty beer (8)
- 22 Particular arrest (6)
- 23 Rising and tapering, saying "No" to 11 (2,2,1,5)
- 24 Measure in Lorraine (4)
- 25 Son of Welsh expert on test to see if wanted (5)
- 26 Southern states news: a horse given a girl's name (8)

Down

- 1 Student comes in about teatime with a showy gesture (8)

- 2 Join one (4)
- 3 Cowardly cry (6)
- 4 Attribute (sic) beer (not sic) (7)
- 5 Flat point (8)
- 6 Divorcee maybe down (10)
- 7 Visible invisible (6)
- 13 Connections with exchanges: see phone conversation – I shouldn't have said that! (5,5)
- 16 Spur to cuddle little helper at breakfast (3,5)
- 18 Knight of romance on reported date with male (8)
- 19 Regretful agreement of doctor is a requirement (5,2)
- 21 With marquetry feature, keeping quiet, being out of touch? (2,4)
- 22 Hate of foreign international (6)
- 24 Setter's saucebox (4)

Solution No. 25,166

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