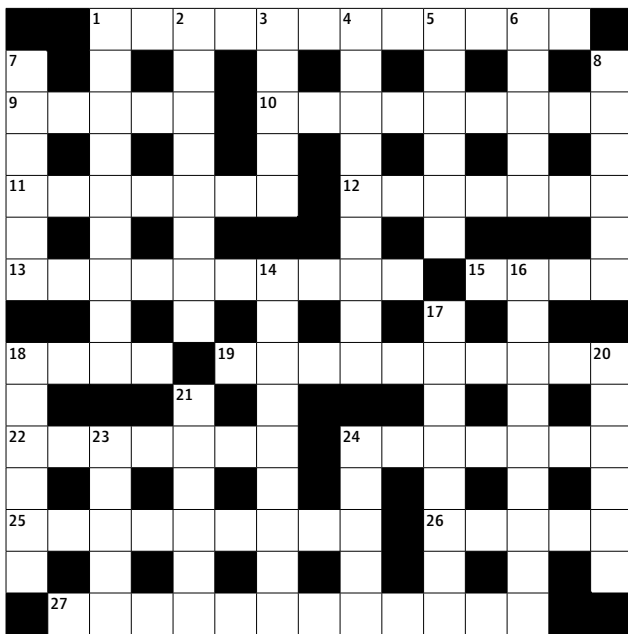


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,896 set by Paul

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 26,896, 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 6 June.

### Across

- 1 Pound loss with a new drop in ounces (4,8)
- 9 Article, pretty sharp (5)
- 10 Drinking loads, fish has a drink (5,4)
- 11 University central to artier Bohemian region of old Italy (7)
- 12 Is in the past defining present, however? (7)
- 13 Skiing gear for Shropshire dance troupe? (10)
- 15 Test period complete (4)
- 18 Feeling party heading for government, politician not beginning to embrace it (4)
- 19 Old actions right after western in American broadcast (7,3)
- 22 Confused mixture coming from newspaper published in the Algarve? (7)
- 24 Double agent finally caught by spy, then daughter spotted (7)
- 25 Scrooge broke banks in US state (9)
- 26 Firm rear (5)
- 27 Large mammals eating duck, bloody little one, less than excited (5,2,5)
- 5 After uprising, I'm inspired by belligerent god, fighting multitudes (6)
- 6 Queen's partner cooked outstanding royal starter (5)
- 7 Light touch for a lady driver? (6)
- 8 Egyptian leader participating in revolution, as serene (6)
- 14 Sin is in midst of battle, as enemy of freedom? (9)
- 16 Myth is so very old, old actor beginning to slumber (9)
- 17 Wonderful work ending for magician in land of huge, huge proportions? (8)
- 18 Stupid remark after online discovery? (6)
- 20 Unpleasant noise breaking gear on a bike (6)
- 21 Spirit phenomenal, when up for puzzle (6)
- 23 Greek character welcoming home a pachyderm (5)
- 24 Ultimate in excitement in bubbly composition (5)

### Down

- 1 Position dinosaur's taken on stage (6,3)
- 2 I reprove wrinkly, as going to seed (8)
- 3 Material heading for comet in small constellation (5)
- 4 However unlikely, lame odds for defeat (9)

Solution No. 26,895

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