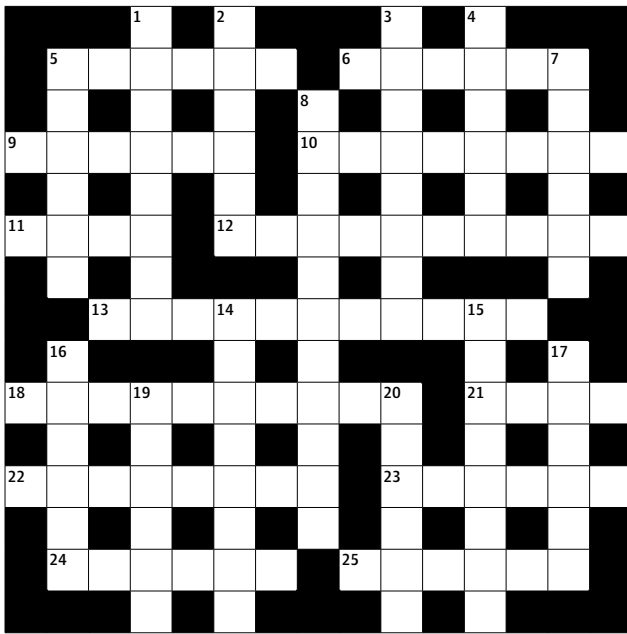


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,016 set by Picaroon

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 27,016, 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 24 October.

All across clues have normal definitions but the wordplay in the other 12 across clues is '13 across'

Across

- 5** Tabloid – it goes downhill (3,3)
6 The Guardian's unsubstantiated comments (6)
9 Doctor's devices producing spin (6)
10 In nursery, train to speak lovingly (4-4)
11 Time is something you can tell (4)
12 Bound to protect conservationists, being idealistic? (4-6)
13 Everyone complimentary about salmon that's dry (7-4)
18 Like a devoted man working on calm (10)
21 Scot's opposed to answer (4)
22 Final contests of the French (8)
23 Wound's taped around the edges (6)
24 Church's origin (6)
25 Stout lady's clothing (6)
- 3** Fully exhaust and dismiss old fellow (3,3,2)
4 Withdrawing cents from account recklessly, one has a hefty bill (6)
5 Rush in the raw meat that's wrapped right (6)
7 Rocky shore skirts deserted island (6)
8 Tailor is cross with suit cutter's pouch (7,4)
14 Oxford University tutor embraces reading work in community (8)
15 Weaken English spies infiltrating China (8)
16 Screens 600 balls? (6)
17 Light infantry put on sort of light uniform (6)
19 Problem present with America's rising hostility (6)
20 Great deal no one rejected for cosmetic product (6)

Down

- 1** Team leading Spanish team of stars (8)
2 On-screen presence who swears aloud (6)

Solution No. 27,015

