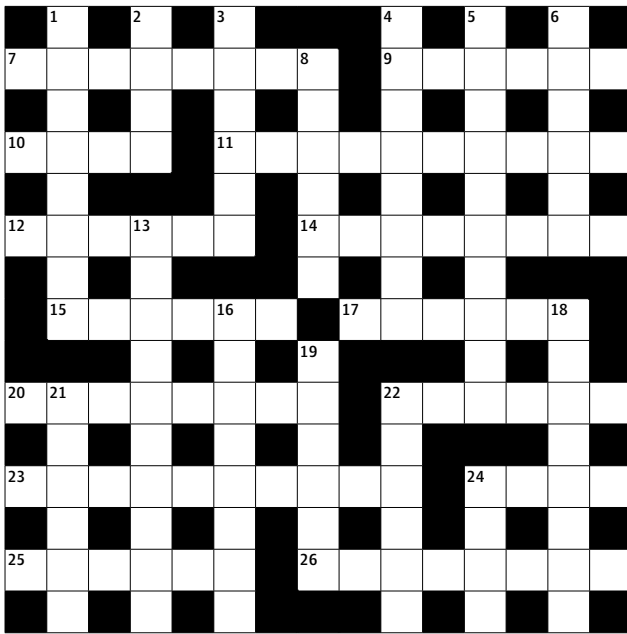


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,088 set by Brummie

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 27,088, 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 16 January.

### Across

- 7 Conclude with army's opening invasion of Holland – hellish (8)  
 9 Atmospheric phenomenon or boomer sound? (6)  
 10 See 22  
 11 Given the law about dropping electric current, it might span two peaks (10)  
 12 Phone a spendthrift (6)  
 14 Bird from Brazil? Mark with fine lines (8)  
 15 Sort of dash into Ring dismissal (6)  
 17 Small creature has cold, rather than hot, stint (6)  
 20 United, Poulenc incited divorce (8)  
 22,10 Bar with two articles by tramp? It bears fruit (6,4)  
 23 Agent's message, maybe: "Try to come back between chapel and drive" (10)  
 24 See 2  
 25 Laurel's sound, having a few lines? (6)  
 26 Supervise "rag lion" housing for Muslim quarters (8)

### Down

- 1 Dignified death, hoarding old money (8)

- 2,24across,16 Junk TV harm: people wait to gain acceptance (4,4,8)  
 3 Solution offered by Australian state: cutting a rate of interest (6)  
 4 Writer takes every blockbuster film as movingly graceful (8)  
 5 Shortening time before work on ground action (10)  
 6 "Extremely cold chest", Mark said (6)  
 8,24 Which should keep a worker from leaving wig off (6,4)  
 13 Light weapon exploded after blast (10)  
 16 See 2  
 18 £25 tip that could go to one's head (8)  
 19 Teacher Patch turned over remains (6)  
 21 Retina mistaken for group of sea snails (6)  
 22 Insect straddling overturned border soil (6)  
 24 See 8

Solution No. 27,087

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