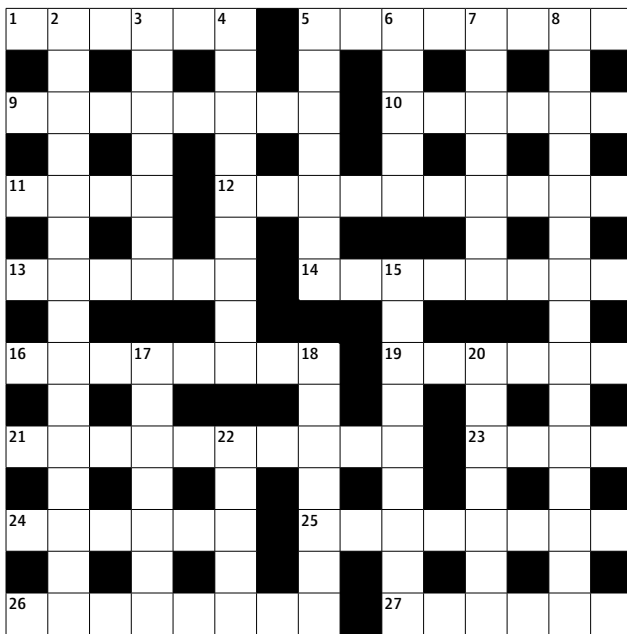


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,938 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 26,938, 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 25 July.

Across

- 1 Make awful, primitive sound: "No iron in river!" (6)
- 5 Valuation reduced with chain cut off (8)
- 9 Secret drinker reaches end of line in Morecambe? (8)
- 10 Withdraws new state in America (6)
- 11,22 Coastal country footballer disheartened by team's kit (4,5)
- 12 State, once, of seed-covered, wild youth (5,5)
- 13 Craft stones: half a smacker (3,3)
- 14 It's lucky the composer, Guy, gets left out (8)
- 16 Turn your hand to flat-pack furniture with this? (5,3)
- 19 Where some academics collect one exercise, as basis for play? (6)
- 21 Off-colour anagrams emerge thus (3,2,5)
- 23 See 6
- 24 Not an owner stocking quality unit? (6)
- 25 Awful weapon verges on a non-ring explosive (5,3)
- 26 Casual tense employed in old female soldiers' essays (8)
- 27 Aware of not just X's and Z's being pronounced? (4,2)

Down

- 2 Subterfuge a vital expedient, when one's lacking as a writer (7,8)
- 3 Crying "salty secretion found here!" (2,5)
- 4 Standard police department's check (9)
- 5 Measurement unit applied to low grade reddish-brown coat (7)
- 6,23 Contact that hurts me – possibly beats being on the outside (5,4)
- 7 Swelling muscles tax (7)
- 8 Author bloke made off on drugs with Neddy, a TV presenter (3,2,10)
- 15 Goes on and on about blemish that leads to blown fuse? (4,5)
- 17 Affecting revolutionary book one has (7)
- 18 Minimum wear, if frosty, round northern rocks (1-6)
- 20 Like Adam, after Eve cut down the tormenting? (7)
- 22 See 11

Solution No. 26,937

