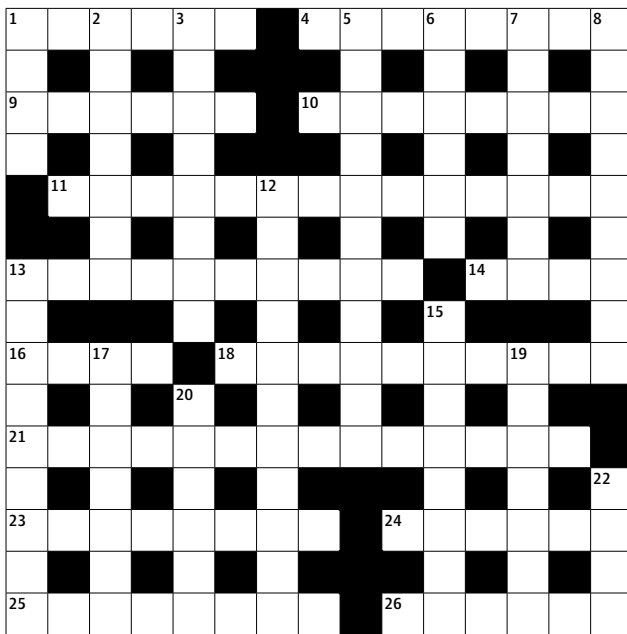


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,956 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 26,956, 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 15 August.

Across

- 1 Idiot not entirely without feeling, shame one has quit (6)
- 4 Having rubbed out old boy, drug lord understood to be a slimy crawler (8)
- 9 Screened by fifth columnist, general dropping off (6)
- 10 General places reflected in Indian city (8)
- 11 Knot tied, coveter set to be someone walking sneakily down the aisle? (5,9)
- 13 Question clothes a nudist designed for religious festival (4,6)
- 14 Test of reading and learning, primarily (4)
- 16 Indian, post-Haydn, sounding game? (4)
- 18 In leak, one stopping vehicle to obstruct legislation (10)
- 21 Fiddles embracing lively sonatas, or encapsulating the ultimate in dumb instruments? (14)
- 23 Written about in almanac, I remain like 17, perhaps (8)
- 24 Master on something stringed, as cellist (4,2)
- 25 Critical supporter adds quality to piano parts (8)
- 26 Capital inspiring lieder is, for starters, the capital for a composer! (6)

Down

- 1 Feature is familiar with broadcast (4)

- 2 Great musicians playing sitar with me (7)
- 3 Better money for big guns (3,5)
- 5 One of 12 with bow, as guitarist after a fiddle (11)
- 6 A bit of music to be shared equally (6)
- 7 Sticky stuff on bottom of cone in tree, more nutty (7)
- 8 Journeyman composer beginning to languish in winter, without success (9)
- 12 Contrarily, was evil mind a French horn player? (6,5)
- 13 Wine not half dry, where bottles kept a joke (9)
- 15 Figure below zero turned around for everyone in economic region (8)
- 17 President as fiddler (7)
- 19 Flipping brilliant hiding data sheets in the kitchen (7)
- 20 God stands above bird, accepting son as the Creator (6)
- 22 A shade cooler around start of winter (4)

Solution No. 26,956

