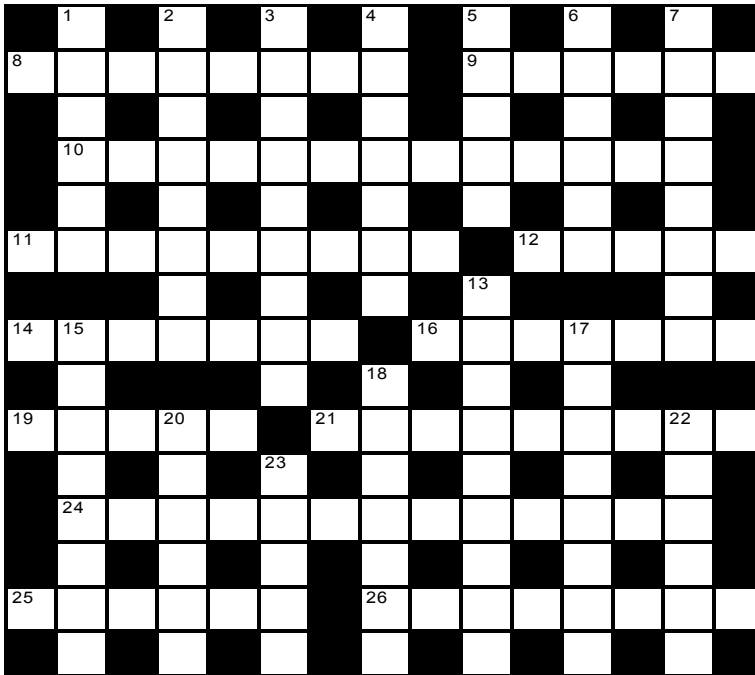


GENIUS No. 157 SET BY PICAROON



RULES AND REQUESTS

Half the solutions are to be entered in a 10 across manner. Ambiguities about some entries are resolved by the appearance of four names with something in common appearing in the completed grid.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 30 July. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

ACROSS

- 8 Extremely insalubrious brown animal not back in city (8)
- 9 Novel about trouble for Eastern leader (6)
- 10 Voyeur on trial, criminal in novel (13)
- 11 Story about neighbouring lives to set straight in a series (9)
- 12 Vehicle in recess reversing with velocity (5)
- 14 Return of one of the 1 having ID (7)
- 16 Shake with unease, ultimately retreating untrained for combat (4,3)
- 19 Island country hasn't deserted capital (5)
- 21 When travelling, atlas gets used and abused (9)
- 24 Brooding opening piece, involving piano (13)
- 25 Start with surprised expression to fix home (6)
- 26 Start of trumpeting to encourage half-hearted angel (8)

DOWN

- 1 French department's holding posh shields (6)
- 2 Place to learn language, including verb and everything (8)
- 3 Follower of Attlee is left-leaning (9)
- 4 Winner almost failing with stratagems, it's said (7)
- 5 Businesses are providing drink (5)
- 6 Destroy scripture that's in fashion (6)
- 7 Killer with hard axes, one leader in army – it could be lethal (8)
- 13 Journo and merchant speaking in underground room (9)
- 15 Monkey around repeatedly in lake (8)
- 17 Self-destructive person back from brink – risk regularly accepted in shock (8)
- 18 Eyes may be tense, two drugs getting knocked back (4-3)
- 20 Heavenly object I put in place of worship (6)
- 22 Did forward line watch? (6)
- 23 Bird loves to be by grass (5)