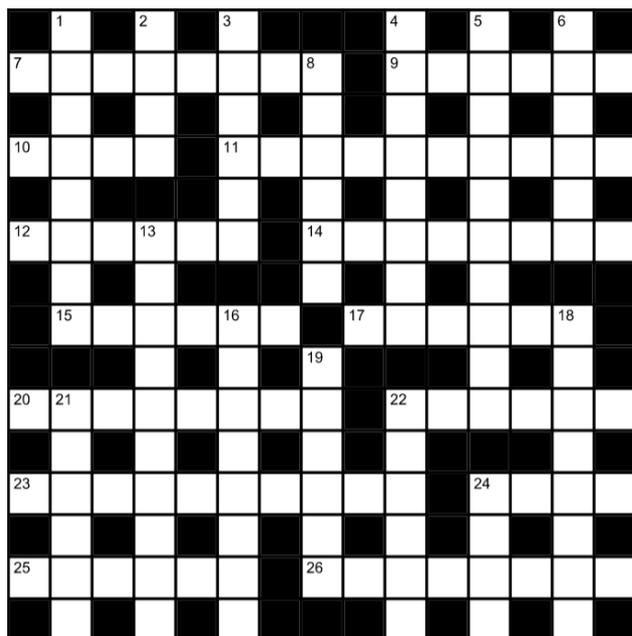


## GENIUS NO 163 SET BY QAOS



### Instructions

Half the solutions need to be treated thematically before being entered in the grid; all resulting words are real.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 4 February. You need to register once and then sign in to [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

### ACROSS

- 7 Britain's dispute over state co-operation (8)  
 9 One suggesting expert puzzle? (6)  
 10 Obscene king anticipates piece of cake (4)  
 11 One holding a silver buckle for completeness (10)  
 12 I have ordered dates for starters as it relaxes me (6)  
 14 Line dancing, say – an endless jig with lack of grace (8)  
 15 Student makes money, about ten pound (6)  
 17 Firm and saucy, tasted like ribs (6)  
 20 Nothing real crashes on bonnet of car with fine traffic arrangement (8)  
 22 Dealer makes bluejacket turn hot to cold (6)  
 23 Flying lorries carry instrument close to galaxy? Not seriously! (10)  
 24 A queen climbs into small vehicle – a Beetle? (4)  
 25 Intellectual, clever liberal not against eating endless fibre (6)  
 26 Messy attic – untidy or ordered? (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Guitarist, one with three-note combination (8)  
 2 Girl takes top off for painter (4)  
 3 Fool's turn, I guess (6)  
 4 Craving left out fruit wine (8)  
 5 Emperor abdicates in Spain, starts to lament and yak on and on (10)  
 6 Feverish, hot and bothered etc – I have cold (6)  
 8 Sounds of organs, one implanted (6)  
 13 Trespasser, break Virginia away by knotted rope (10)  
 16 Peer has misgivings, when evicting married peers (8)  
 18 A jerk carrying some whisky? That's unexpected (8)  
 19 Presents from boxes after lifting lid (6)  
 21 Watched short film about sheep (6)  
 22 Most shy at coconuts, some shy to panic, feet are rising (6)  
 24 Awake? Eat some fruit (4)