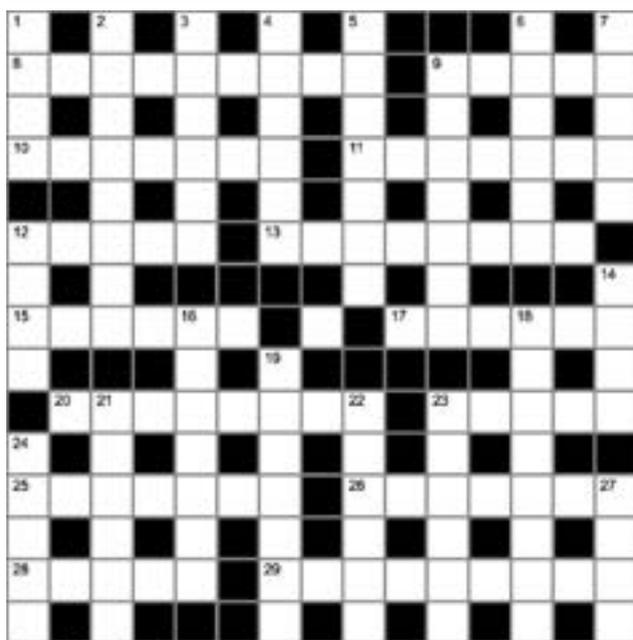


## GENIUS NO.171 SET BY QAOS



### CLUES

#### Across

- 8 Fellow lied about mistake on expedition (5,4)
- 9 A male advanced and finally travelled forward (5)
- 10 Holds company in and makes money again (7)
- 11 King invades island retreating with the heart of Peter Pan (7)
- 12 ET had out-of-this-world conclusion (5)
- 13 Gods made noise to remove charge (8)
- 15 Up north, flag waved with line out – that's funny! (6)
- 17 Trot? Horse comes back, look! (6)
- 20 Before, Conservative promises to pay dear (8)
- 23 Enjoyed 50% of transference of powers being returned (5)
- 25 Religious person divorces husband over nothing dyestuff (7)
- 26 Writes down: "Absent from Eastern society" (7)
- 28 Men on board gain key town (5)
- 29 Church takes in donations to Northern Rock (9)

### Instructions

Nine letter clashes between across and down solutions are to be resolved, using a consistent formula, creating 18 valid new words. These nine letters have something in common, which will indicate the letter to be entered in the central square of the grid.

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

#### Down

- 1 A service return from a great distance (4)
- 2 Drug injection given to strange, violent soldier (8)
- 3 Old Dutch delicacy is somewhat unusual (6)
- 4 Lost time and speed, regularly (6)
- 5 Incident in outskirts of Eastbourne: party, drink, fall over (7)
- 6 Countries are struggling with descending sizes? (6)
- 7 It's hard to criticise (5)
- 9 Being transferred towards heaven partly made Neil Armstrong (7)
- 12 In Paris, I get way out at cricket with leg pull (4)
- 14 Grating woman not at home (4)
- 16 To finish puzzle again takes willpower ... (7)
- 18 ...but to video puzzle requires new commitment (8)
- 19 Centre of Birmingham supports party on Tues or Wed (7)
- 21 American fan's broken rotor key (6)
- 22 Teacher picks up adult books for Persian instrument (6)
- 23 A helping of sauerkraut is Merkel's condition (6)
- 24 "He lied to let carbon monoxide escape": Number 10 released to press (5)
- 27 Budgerigars, perhaps, fly up a short distance (4)