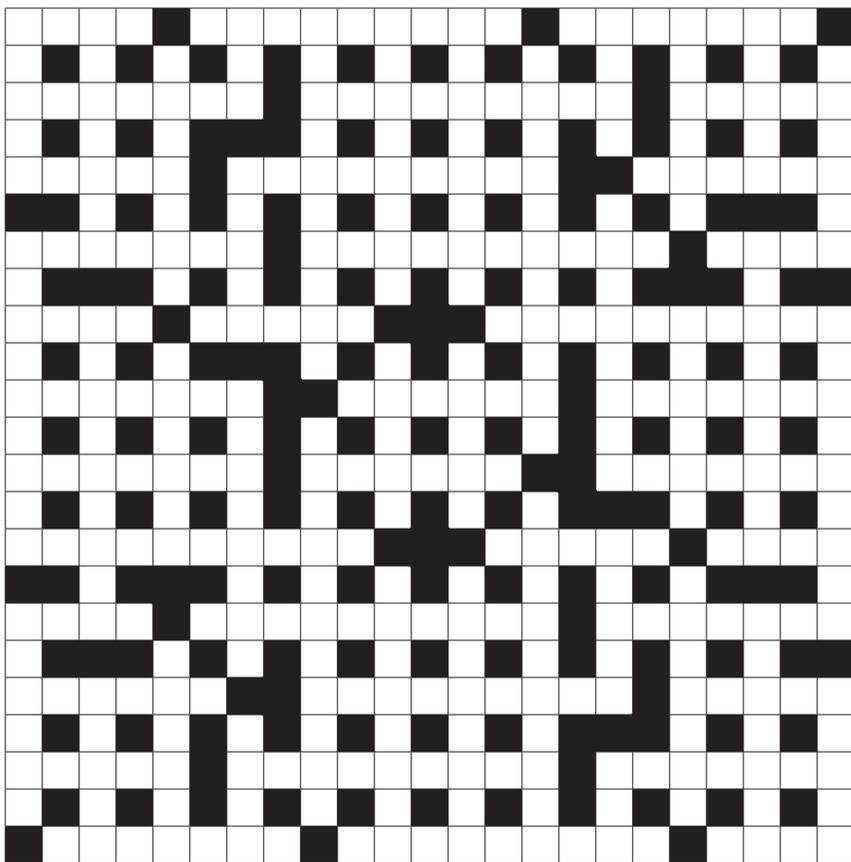


# Guardian cryptic crossword

No 27,800 set by Maskarade



Clues are in alphabetical order of their solutions. Each group of solutions with the same initial letter contains at least one thematic solution, not further defined in its clue. Solve the clues and place the solutions in the grid, jigsaw-wise, as they will fit. (Five of the thematic solutions occupy two or three spaces in the grid.)

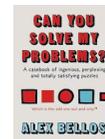
- A** A lump in one's throat (5,5)  
Attack, losing head in drinking bout (6)  
Location for Ballykissangel

- B** Hot, having turned over books above (5,6)  
Man of note scarcely heard down under (7)  
Shades, not drawn first around one (6)  
**C** Overturned output of substantial UAE factories (4,2,4)  
Converse with nature out East on a loch with the whole group (8)  
**D** Distributed mail in the German car (7)  
Warning to avoid going round the bend (5)

- E** Lectern's Roman standard (5)  
Drink and drive? On the contrary (3,2,5)  
Registering game opponents, incapably drunk (9)  
Rugby player dismissed clubs and exclusive circles - not half! (9)  
Muse was, for Caesar, love (5)  
Before round half nine - here's the fastest deliveryman (5)  
Fascinating sight of French engineer, we're told (6)  
**F** Ship's boat returns right away in splendid surroundings (9)  
Film director's way (5)

- G** Coarse during short walk (9)  
Area of an estate having weed the Spanish removed (7)  
**H** German chap chewing Dane's kebab (5,5,5)  
Treasure from wandering tribe is spoken of (5)  
**I** Some magic ingredients making money (5,5)  
Very worried, endlessly unfit and cold (2,1,5)  
Individuals entering one country or another (9)  
**J** European agreement with baron in the old country (9)  
Dancing - including very popular dance (6)  
**K** Ship's member on German waterway, reportedly (4)  
Car firm's odd parts of tour car discarded (3,3)  
**L** In favour of being omitted from golden parachute, sadly (6,2,4)  
Sat uncomfortably in heather, deep-rooted (7)  
Cattle and one tailless creature in waterfall (8)  
**M** West, the actress back in dreamland (3)  
Former president from island meeting endless hold-up (7)  
County by North Sea, in turmoil (10)  
**N** Style poor Jane's accepted (7)  
Feature of cockney speech in drama (3)  
**O** Appeal to boss to stock new shrub (8)  
Upset the whole school during radio broadcast (4,7)  
**P** Left gateway bearing suitcase (4)  
Open vessel heading north around Baltic, regularly (6)  
**Q** Almost gag, about to bring up a little apple (6)  
After start of questioning, lashed soundly and jibed (7)  
**R** Small island seen during the monsoon season (7)  
Copy from traveller around country - article's missing (9)

- Regularly plays harp back at resort (4)  
Jilts after worries (10)  
**S** Oxygen provided during close call (5)  
Jack and Mary? (10)  
**T** Pop group ringing sound starts (7)  
ie, very true (4,2,2)  
Impress, admitting award is excessive (3,4)  
**U** No odd letters from our gillie (4)  
Naturalist's flower (4)  
**V** Found in microwave, always (4)  
Examine bits of crack, hash and grass (5)  
**W** Funeral party starts with audiences keening erratically (4)  
Hideouts for hostilities? (7)  
Chintz lines were re-ordered (6,9)  
**X** Composer having skin broken with axe (7)  
Abnormal dryness round top of toe ignored (5)  
**Y** Police HQ's indication of approval for benchmark (9)  
Greyhounds rip kid apart (9,7)  
**Z** Lazily, jogger spurns statue centrally at temple tower (8)  
Unpleasant spot on island (4)



The first 10 entries drawn will win Can You Solve My Problems?

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 27,800, P.O. Box 17566, Birmingham, B33 3EZ, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 29th April.

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