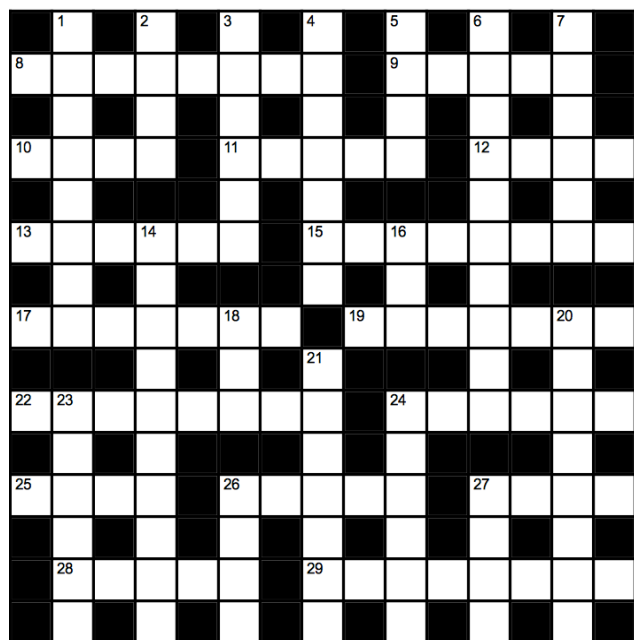


GENIUS NO. 200 SET BY KITE



CLUES

Across

- 8 Gave what is necessary to retire at home fit (8)
- 9 Even awful queen has son ... (5)
- 10 ... and awkward earl has another one (4)
- 11 Guardian enthralled by pop star (5)
- 12 Joints of deer are articulated (4)
- 13 See 19
- 15 Pipe outside school (8)
- 17 Crooner accepts unexpected sack with ... (7)
- 19,13 (See special instructions) (7,6)
- 22 ... end around broadcast (8)
- 24 Navy tug is first to move backwards (6)
- 25 Eastern grasses rejected ... (4)
- 26 ... on the subject of cutting dope by journalist (5)
- 27 Block the start of triathlon (4)
- 28 King Edward's confusingly last at the beginning (5)
- 29 Landing reportedly around the Home Counties (8)

Instructions

Two linked across solutions are unclued and provide a theme, not further defined. All the other across clues also lack a definition and their solutions need themed elements to be removed from their solutions before entry in the grid. All the across solutions are real words.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 29 February. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

Down

- 1 Excited male briefly moans, making complaint (8)
- 2 What helps bowlers hit their mark? (4)
- 3 Count on this to put muscle on since boxing copper (6)
- 4 Accommodation in camp protected by river (7)
- 5 Set of six dogs out of bounds (4)
- 6 Old preacher's lectern made from Wilde's cooler seat? (7,3)
- 7 Behind and acting tough (6)
- 14 Rut results from this — it's the plain fact (5,5)
- 16 Missing the first cereal — gone ... (3)
- 18 ... and not one of those here lacking finales (3)
- 20 Fence in field ignored at the outset after stable unfinished (8)
- 21 Maybe noisily and repeatedly engineer raved when given tripe (7)
- 23 Plant gall (6)
- 24 Note passed on to groom in the past (6)
- 26 Serving up — about to feed genetically modified root (4)
- 27 Fish and calamari originally hard to see through glasses (4)