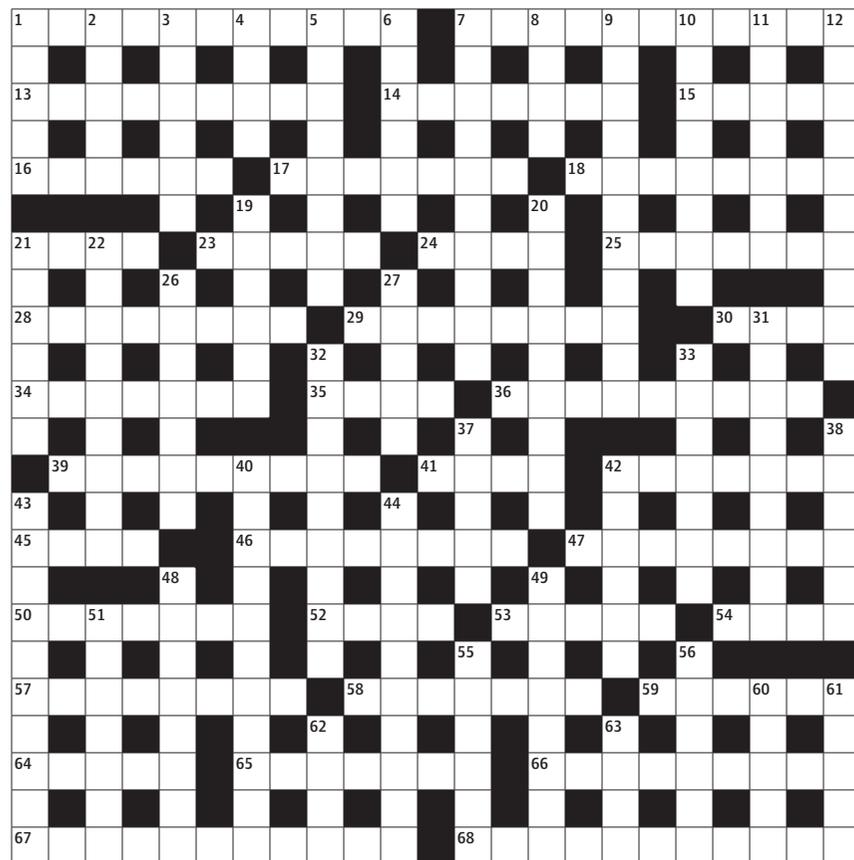


Guardian cryptic crossword

No 28,105 set by Maskarade



Thirty-six solutions require the inclusion of a common three-letter abbreviation or a three-letter word; a further solution needs two of them. These 38 abbreviations and words fall into two separate themed groups of 19 (not further defined), each appearing twice in the grid. The 37 clues involved consist of the definition of the full grid entry and cryptic wordplay, which omits the three-letter abbreviation or word. Their letter counts are for the required grid entry.

- Across**
- 1 Father and young girls, when wife has gone, had their chips! (6,5)
 - 7 Literary character may slam prom broadcast (3,8)
 - 13 Figurine display includes a bit of tole (9)
 - 14 Make-up obtained from shell – not hard (7)
 - 15 Claudia from Corrie spoken of as leader (5)
 - 16 Rebus’s consternation (6)
 - 17 Held out, having guffawed (7)
 - 18 Tonic drunk in Crewe, say (8)
 - 21 The very best place, on reflection (4)
 - 23 I object to what the kitten did (5)

- 24 Thatcher’s assertion is somewhat hesitant in action (4)
- 25 Bag from outside part of chapel (7)
- 28 Immediately 39 the poet dismissed son and one other (2,4,2)
- 29 African girl embracing dogs (8)
- 30 Midnight Cowboy? (4)
- 34 Suspended a governor and worker (7)
- 35 Fair during the ’70s (4)
- 36 Distributed pollutants left out for one submitting a request (9)
- 39 Dragon-slayer blockaded (9)
- 41 Glut of eggs, for starters (4)
- 42 Cupids, coming back, popular with one European capital (7)

- 45 ‘Faire’ translated means trouble (2-2)
- 46 Score sent back – was not a piece (8)
- 47 Rescue vessel out a lot around isle (8)
- 50 Tiresome once more when youth leader departs (7)
- 52 Turning in the water, bear’s heading off (4)
- 53 Lectern’s Roman standard (5)
- 54 Half of the Lagavulin, say, finally available on isle (4)
- 57 Suitable area – quiet river location (8)
- 58 It’s for sure drinks are returned (4,3)
- 59 Director left instrumentalists capital (6)
- 64 Manager backed president at Pier Head (5)
- 65 Cartoonist reveals 1920s’ style (3,4)
- 66 Metal rasp returned to hospital treatment area (5,4)
- 67 Don dismissing Henry – extremely heartless ritual (3,8)
- 68 Bobs once, maybe, having no details on change (3,8)

Down

- 1 Joined, having worried too much single-heartedly (5)
- 2 Opponents embracing foremost Welshman (5)
- 3 Cat with half of two fish (6)
- 4 Tory leader involved in payment for honour (4)
- 5 Repeated it time and time again to top journalist (8)
- 6 Payment made by feudal tenant in due course leads to prison (6)
- 7 133 up in town in south-east France (10)
- 8 Way to upset a bullock (4)
- 9 Arrived with jaunty Tessa on Edinburgh’s extinct volcano (7,4)
- 10 Fruit from one bed, small (8)
- 11 Elizabethan favourite at demo, we’re told, for some but not others (7)
- 12 Study of prisons around Croatia is a pseudoscience (10)
- 19 Exclusive group sitting upright (6)
- 20 Adopted poor caretaker without wheels (5,4)

- 21 His column is about painting (6)
- 22 From the heart, expats assist Swedes dance (9)
- 26 Who get rid of borders used with model railways? (2,5)
- 27 Minty drink on record (5)
- 31 How a drink affected skilful creation (9)
- 32 Recognised standards in life bewildered nieces (9)
- 33 Half the sitcom is permissible (7)
- 37 One who wrote about a year in Marrakesh and Tyneside (5)
- 38 Good characteristic of Caesar’s man (6)
- 40 Discuss terms again, involving teenage trio (11)
- 42 64’s ground, anonymously, is far away (6)
- 43 Pack sailing boat, avoiding customs house, somewhere in Suffolk (10)
- 44 Distributed Sunday beer to the deputy clergyman’s place (10)
- 48 Garibaldi regularly espousing rising characters (8)
- 49 Wife gets berated, wiggling here? (5,3)
- 51 When overturned, smell sauce inside jar (7)
- 55 Oxford’s reference work brought up from the very start (2,4)
- 56 Car backing up a little (6)
- 60 Group that seized power tracing army leaders (5)
- 61 Position inducing indolence (5)
- 62 Emperor ran away from Italian city (4)
- 63 Worry about appearing in newspaper (4)

We regret that in present circumstances we are unable to process prize entries for Saturday puzzles. The solution to this puzzle will be published in the Guardian on Monday 20th April.