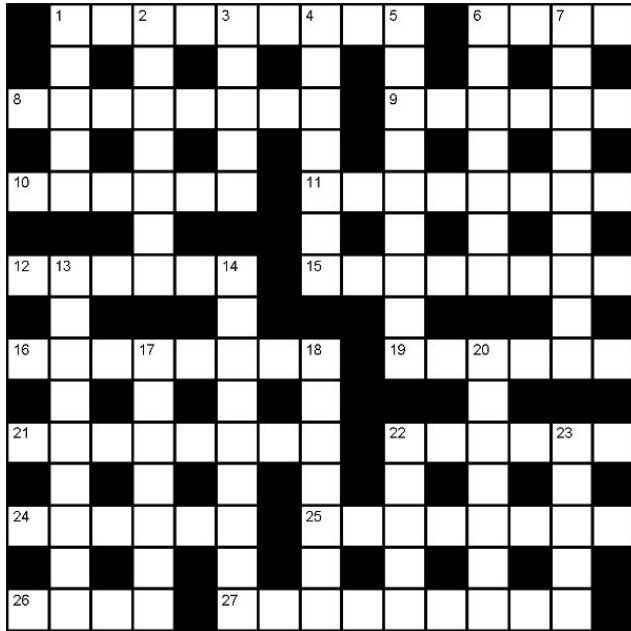


Genius No 206 Set by Qaos



All solutions are defined normally, but the wordplay in each clue leads to a solution where two letters require an elementary substitution before entry in the grid.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 BST on Saturday 5 September. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize. Click [here](#) to register.

Across

- 1 Endless clouds worried Darwin at first — fake? (9)
- 6 Containers for snakes (4)
- 8 Royal tucked into course and consumed sauce (8)
- 9 Cleans with outcries — there's no chlorine! (6)
- 10 They move slowly to move easily around old square, backwards (6)
- 11 Criminal then said it's most dangerous (8)
- 12 Made crossing over British India (6)
- 15 Spin doctor has therapy to gain special honours (8)
- 16 Mother captures soldiers for official (8)
- 19 Most tender group catches ball (6)
- 21 Trapped nerve in back? Pull 5 out (8)
- 22 Gamble with Winstone and lost (6)
- 24 Before, the French measure short dress (6)
- 25 Does pie, mash and salad starter come delivered in pieces? (8)
- 26 Overseas letters from friends (4)
- 27 Abbot holds parts of fork, the quality of being yummy (9)

Down

- 1 Saint moved country (5)
- 2 Gallagher's upset to talk about posting (7)
- 3 A great many curse after 50 (5)
- 4 Overwork and long for start of recess — does she? (7)
- 5 Like an actress 'carrying on', I had lifted large sacks (9)
- 6 Cat is initially eager to wrestle (7)
- 7 Soldier seen climbing over tense leeches (9)
- 13 Old artists and conservatives have kitchen gardens (9)
- 14 It prevents discontented druggie getting in (9)
- 17 Knock from lots of punishment (7)
- 18 Incompetent head causes embarrassment (7)
- 20 No money raised by shabby hotel, a squalid place (7)
- 22 Boxer's stopped by advanced defence (5)
- 23 Money to hoard (5)

