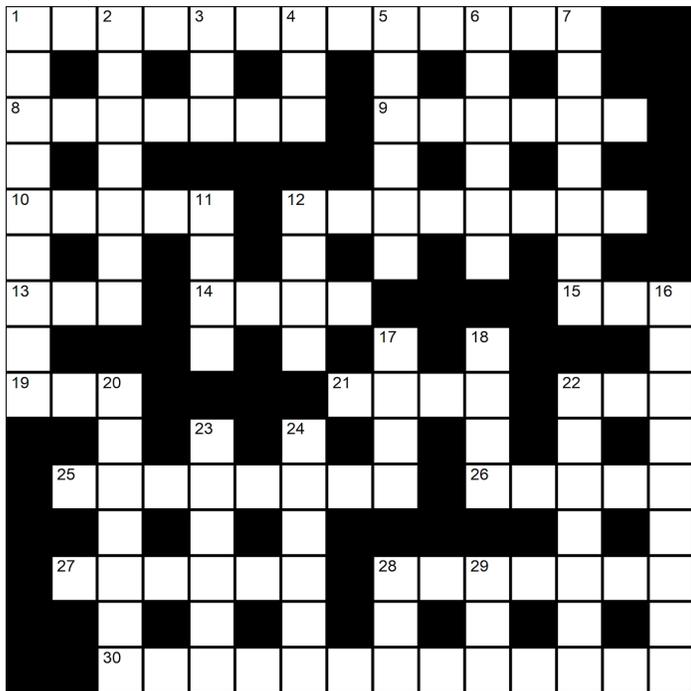


Genius No 261

Set by Pasquale



Ten clues contain neither wordplay nor definition; each has a sequence of letters that can be arranged to form its entry, a thematic item. Wordplay in eight further clues each omits a different letter; these can be arranged to give the recipients of the items. The remaining clues are normal.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 BST on Saturday 5 April. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

Across

- 1 What makes Arab carry tent round in the desert? (9,4)
- 8 No endless rest? it's most curious (7)
- 9 Note engineers attending rescue vessel (6)
- 10 Head leaving school – one's shafted (5)
- 12 Music a DJ was keen on (8)
- 13 Length of cloth, partially yellow (3)
- 14 Lava from terrific eruption (4)
- 15 A country without university (3)
- 19 Something from shop gift-wrapped (3)
- 21 Greek character had to retreat (4)
- 22 Terrible ruler, one not wanted for leading position (3)
- 25 Rome has new clothes features (8)
- 26 Beat bad brother without hesitation (5)
- 27 Crack my one or two misleading clues! (6)
- 28 Calm or awful din? (7)
- 30 For Tories, the election's likely to pose problems (7,6)

Down

- 1 Fruit in tin getting a lot put off – revolting! (9)
- 2 Southern saint immersed in a Russian river (7)
- 3 Extra times (3)
- 4 A dull routine in truth (3)
- 5 Jester caught in northern city (6)
- 6 Fleet Street leaving a mad star deranged (6)
- 7 Worth getting sozzled at university – so long as you don't do this? (5,2)
- 11 District getting prize, but not first (4)
- 12 Scotsman all right, having caught cold (4)
- 16 Party offering gin or beer (4-2-3)
- 17 Lot getting obese with little energy (4)
- 18 Magnetic attraction (4)
- 20 Fools going around Greece upset sisters (7)
- 22 Poetry about personal problem going on a bit (7)
- 23 King wearing special habit for Hindu act of worship (6)
- 24 Give the appearance of being amateur – glib about it (4,2)
- 28 Prison dump (3)
- 29 A hard wood (3)