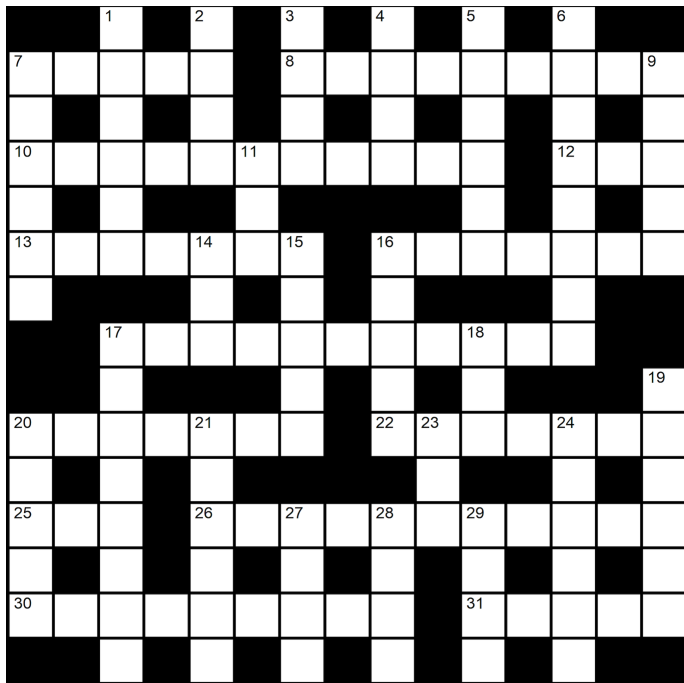


Genius No 269

Set by Glyph



Across

- 7 Day endlessly difficult (5)
- 8 Like a huntsman, cunning - stealing a new / old identity (9)
- 10 Salaries go back and forth, cast keep haggling (4,7)
- 12 Haircut Henri rudely snipped (3)
- 13 Outrageously we blame young female (3-4)
- 16 Introduce official inside measurement, approximately 30 inches (7)
- 17 7 and 20 could be game show contestants (3,8)
- 20 Glyph in Calais attracting whistles from Londoners (7)
- 22 Followers from Europe backtracking after concerning ITN broadcast (7)
- 25 Expected performance to end early (3)
- 26 Rewriting DNA history in smart way to reposition data sequences (3,3,5)
- 30 Tough to find a fitting place for this nerd, games ultimately challenging (6,3)
- 31 Organic material from waxy lemon (5)

Entrants must pick a side. The majority of down clues must have a letter removed before solving. These letters, taken in clue order, inform the solver of one who may not pick a side.

Five further clues are ambiguous and four more are undefined.

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

Down

- 1 Fact US soldier embellished, at first, for VIP (6)
- 2 Support Dad winning Marlie's heart (4)
- 3 Powder starts to tickle Aunt Alisa's cheeks (4)
- 4 Elaborate system of gauze no good after minute (4)
- 5 Vestal college had setter regularly thrown out (6)
- 6 Upturn in British trade - metal (old money) and sporting kit (4,4)
- 7 Women into counterfeit Monets, perhaps (6)
- 9 Hoist e.g. Tesla or Ford's rear end up (5)
- 11 Tray of Chai (masala) (3)
- 14 Parrot gawped, wings clipped (3)
- 15 Reveals, for audience, shoulders (5)
- 16 Father Rafa insistent offence only taken on one side in Puerto Rico (5)
- 17 Old volunteers I busted replaced - this may reveal bitterness (5,3)
- 18 Flapjack ingredient one of last two in BOGOF mate discovered (3)
- 19 Sent free advice once by retired writer (6)
- 20 Like Punch's wife - short, over the top (5)
- 21 Maybe fostered kin race around (2,4)
- 23 Bishop falls off zigzag slide on playing field (3)
- 24 Cuddle up in cheat's den with liberal European (6)
- 27 Mistakem? Yes and no! (4)
- 28 Goat's hindquarters struck following a refusal - it's futile (2,2)
- 29 Poor quality coordinates south of Paston's outskirts (4)