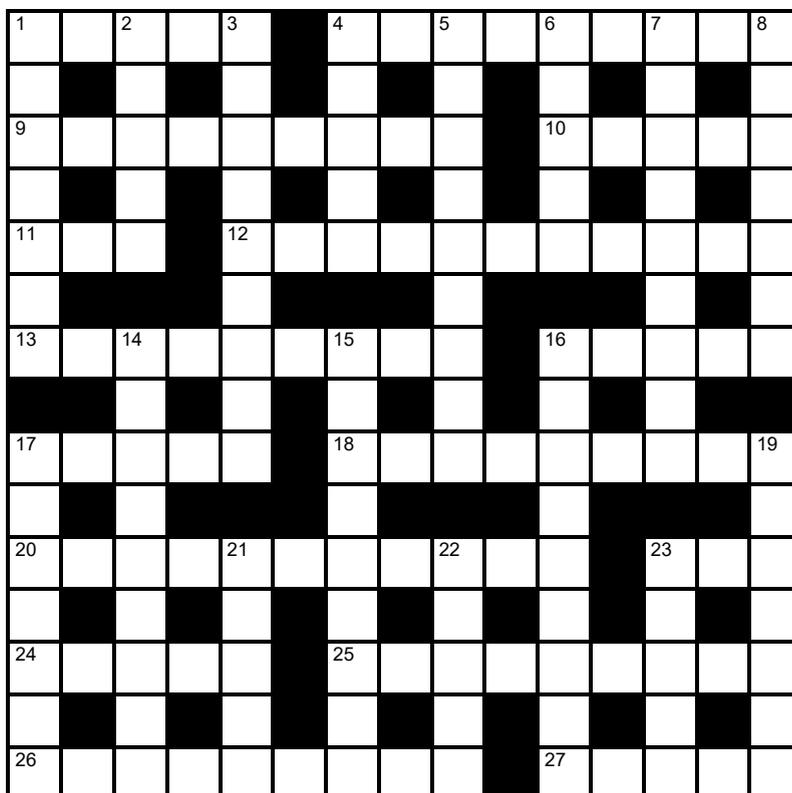


The across clues are normal.

In each of the down clues, the definition has been moved into the subsequent clue. I.e. The definition for 1d is in the clue for 2d, and that for 2d is in the clue for 3d etc. The definition for the final down clue (23d) is in 1d. This may sound daunting to start with, but it should become less so as you progress. Once you solve a down clue, it helps you with the clue either side.

Across

- 1 Rob completely ready to sit (3,2)
- 4 Rescue animal commitments over, headed right back (2,7)
- 9 Complaint detailed drowned rower (9)
- 10 Scruffs sleep and rest inside (5)
- 11 Precursor to Zeppelin's heavy metal sound (3)
- 12 It prescribed lessons on plant body (11)
- 13 Work at compliance to assess qualification (9)
- 16 Poke one with tip of this? (5)



- 17 Missing sign, runner last to drop out (5)
- 18 Group reflected curious English view (3,4,2)
- 20 Bar storing spicy sauce in fast food provider? (4,7)
- 23 Well spoken tea drinker (3)
- 24 Ride left running? (5)
- 25 Money problem: high fuel stops fan touring S Africa (9)
- 26 Eccentric Count admitted had gone crazy (3,6)

- 27 Sister dropped her in seaside town bordering Spain (5)

Down

- 1 First of down clues marks moved definition (7)
- 2 Metal disc almost circular in shape (5)
- 3 Maybe cat regurgitated it - fur ball? (9)
- 4 Slip road abroad (5)
- 5 Book, realise after

- shredding, original from Thomas Hardy (9)

- 6 Less distinct than any other pair of circles (5)
- 7 Like Pop, then ridicule our group's drummer (9)
- 8 Shoots dead on drug trail (7)
- 14 Pedigree dog came last (9)
- 15 Cut loose Alsatians (9)

- 16 One rushing Ready, Set, Go! (3,6)
- 17 Ticket scam - case dismissed? (7)
- 19 Metal shell? (7)
- 21 Agents detaining catholic man without reason (5)
- 22 Close to conflagration, no escaping (5)
- 23 Gather around doves' nesting boxes (5)