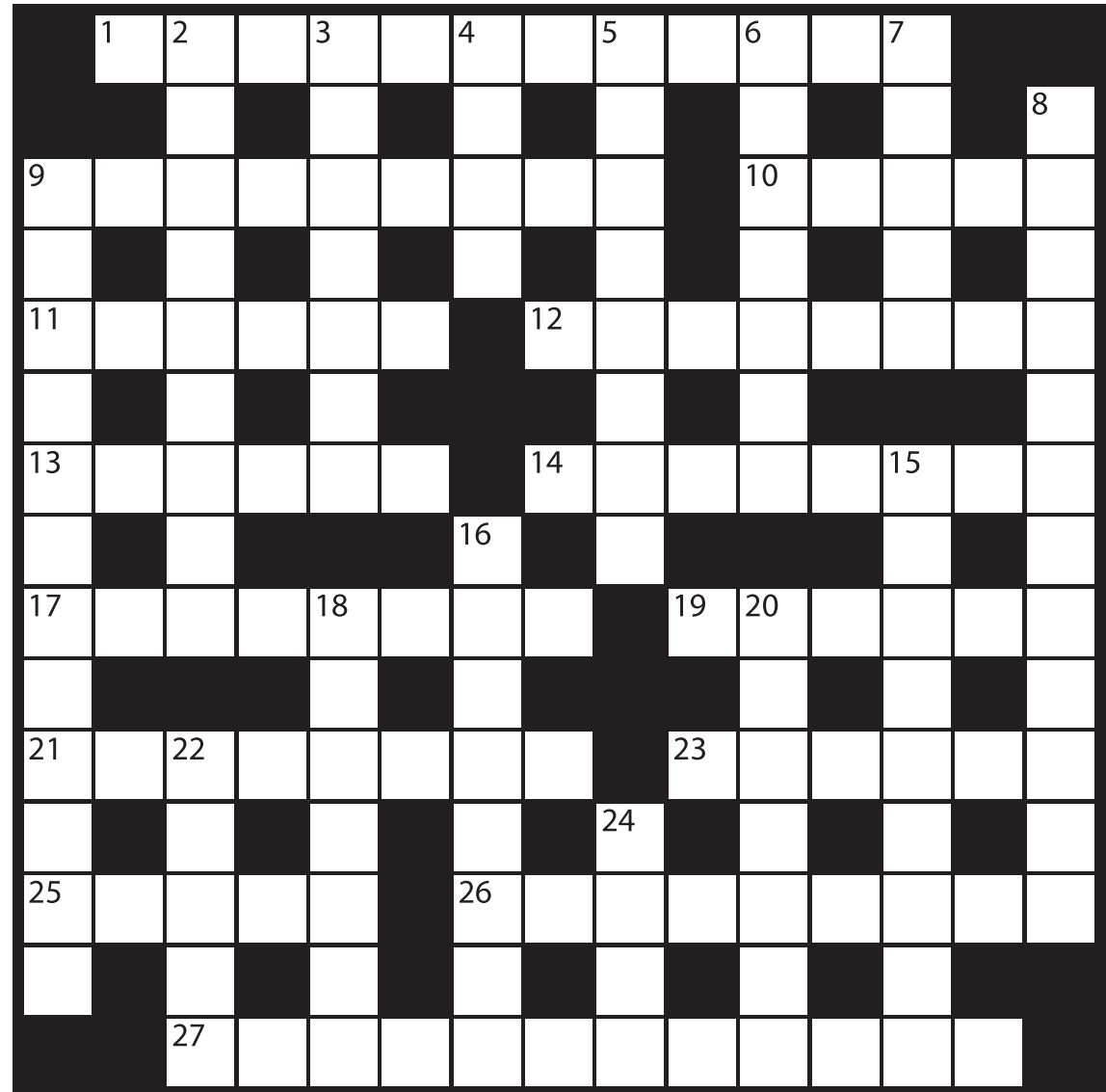


ACROSS

- 1 Large and broad army officer (5-7)
- 9 Old coin made from funny ore including phosphorous (9)
- 10 Startle heartless swine pinching vehicle (5)
- 11 Part of plant cat removed from head (6)
- 12 Snobs are to represent member of nobility (8)
- 13 Exit east with female monster skipping over (6)
- 14 One freeing rare eels writhing around (8)
- 17 Ushered in my boss? (8)
- 19 Crash crossing midsection of enclosed zigzag course (6)
- 21 Embarrassed after securing degree in Open university without distinction (8)
- 23 Bird admirer admits oddly shunning black duck (6)
- 25 Story about European is delight (5)
- 26 Poorly sail river in competitions (9)
- 27 Hinting about one final bit of crossword being daunting (12)

DOWN

- 2 Praise dropping ace on king? He's a cheat! (9)
- 3 Expert backed that man, American musician (7)
- 4 Contained by Meg, angry mob (4)
- 5 Negative person unknown in space agency, ultimately very nice employer (8)
- 6 Gentleman served up fish dish (7)
- 7 Put aside unfinished pages (5)
- 8 Complicated meter man uses for readings (12)
- 9 Reform the law about weapon (12)



- 15 Share around article of French variety (9)
- 16 Support Republican in group giving message (8)
- 18 Excited lot used to be most noisy (7)
- 20 Each fellow in command turned up for paperwork (7)
- 22 Teacher was crude, Boz is upset (5)
- 24 Being involved in charity, very passionate (4)