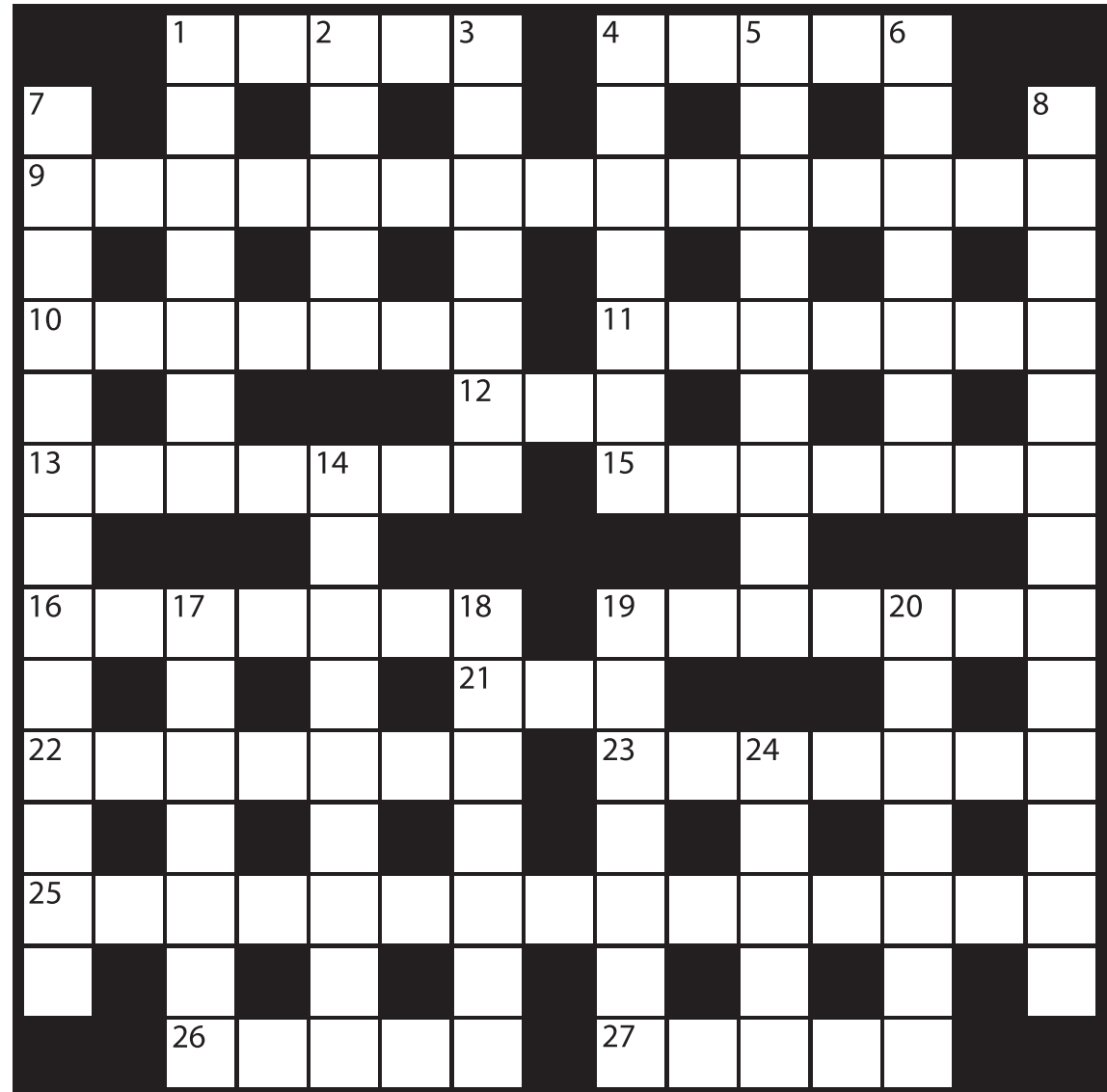


**ACROSS**

- 1 Composer who left after party? (5)
- 4 Old-fashioned advance before end of dance (5)
- 9 One in Monaco worried about Oxbridge sportsman only rarely (4,2,1,4,4)
- 10 Communications from landlords? (7)
- 11 A way to travel - on a horse? (7)
- 12 Regularly jovial, but crude (3)
- 13 Fish eater ordering plaice with starter of nachos (7)
- 15 Understanding something of adolescent enterprises (7)
- 16 Soldiers, exhausted, went to bed (7)
- 19 Overfamiliar advance (7)
- 21 The day before English victory in Europe (3)
- 22 Conscript faltered badly, having abandoned line (7)
- 23 Unsuccessful competitor in final so rankles (4-3)
- 25 Hello - your ears must be burning (5,2,3,5)
- 26 Almost losing head prematurely (5)
- 27 Learn malfunctions of the kidney (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Rising nervous reaction in authentic performance (7)
- 2 Utter moral failing about love (5)
- 3 Affair giving rise to trouble with one lad (7)
- 4 Possibly starts on beer beer and beer (4,3)
- 5 Observer magazine? (9)
- 6 Feeling Germany should avoid relegation (7)
- 7 Illusion loads of praise must break (5,8)
- 8 Lenin typed wrongly about conclusion, without help (13)



- 14 Temporary manager's oddly keen in frantic rat race (9)
- 17 Top swinger's bar? (7)
- 18 Way of cooking bass and small fish (4-3)
- 19 Dad, full of energy, finds quill (7)
- 20 Appearance that's right in a challenger (7)
- 24 Caused antagonism collecting litter (5)