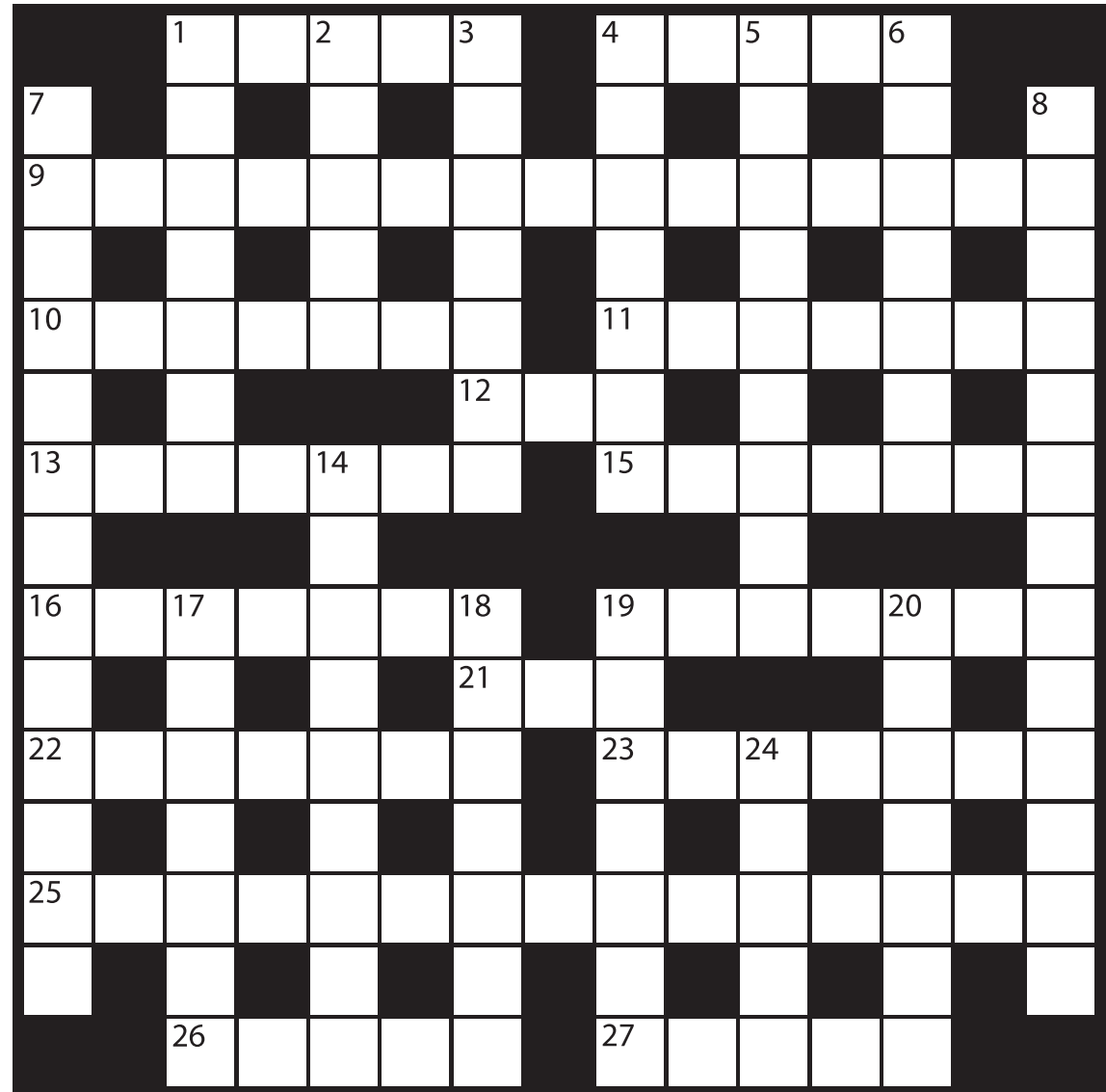


ACROSS

- 1 Sporting drive towards insurance (5)
- 4 Force part of ear into theatre (5)
- 9 Destroyed net growth and set out for powerhouse (5,2,8)
- 10 Missiles on northern straits (7)
- 11 Carlisle man eager to return coats! (7)
- 12 Spike article in case of entrepreneur (3)
- 13 Samples new treats with son (7)
- 15 Led off following Cornish home fraud (7)
- 16 Repeated hearing of endless literary shenanigans (7)
- 19 Religious leader parking on row (7)
- 21 Silver ring, in the past (3)
- 22 A bridge in New York in disorder (7)
- 23 Performer giving energy to painter (7)
- 25 Happy mountaineer's ideal location? (2,3,2,3,5)
- 26 Regrets adopting student regulations (5)
- 27 In returning, suffer a loss of sun (5)

DOWN

- 1 Chickens and cattle crossing a road (7)
- 2 Sign from king held in Spanish port (5)
- 3 Denies soldiers the means to set off explosives (7)
- 4 Pulls together and concludes (7)
- 5 Exercises in speech surgery (9)
- 6 Boffin with urge to be boss? (7)
- 7 Get up to argue and make sense (5,2,6)
- 8 Discrete flesh displayed when sitting on these (13)
- 14 Foolishly copies friend of the bishop (9)
- 17 Disheartened teenager with thespian's rural transport (7)



- 18 Redundancies cancelled in places (7)
- 19 Cooks steal peas regularly (7)
- 20 One gives cover with hesitation, after rebuilding ruins (7)
- 24 Keep changing sides finally getting drier (5)