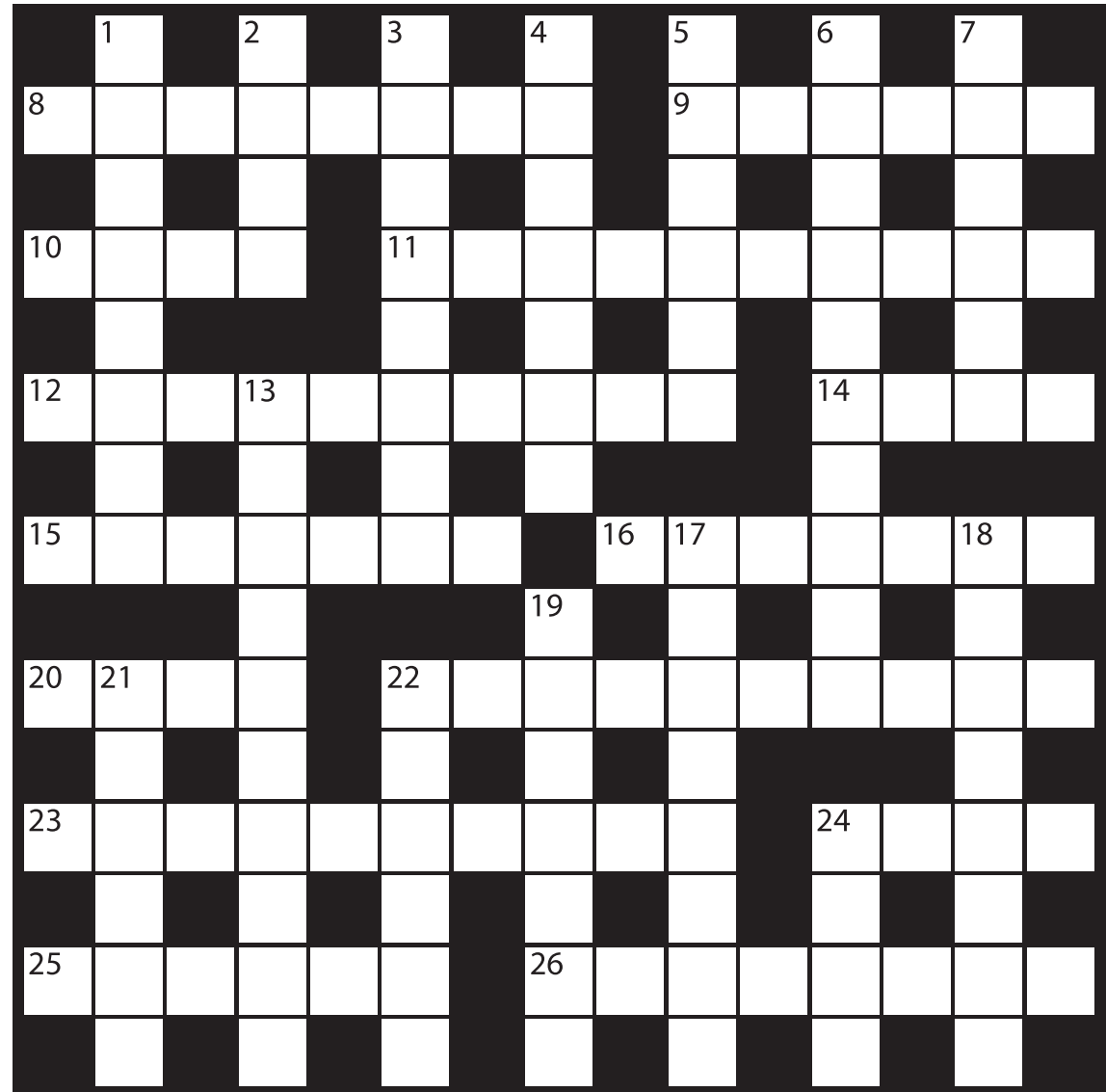


ACROSS

- 8 Vicious person holds trap for dark-haired girl (8)
- 9 Morning exam showing complete lack of standards (6)
- 10 Storm wrecked gear (4)
- 11 Dogs recovering? (10)
- 12 Display top competition horse (10)
- 14 Cut and pinch (4)
- 15 Not even the head exhibits eccentricity (7)
- 16 Painkiller developed in Paris (7)
- 20 Long for a bit of chit-chat (4)
- 22 Accounting for new apex lining (10)
- 23 Noble as a carrot? It's possible (10)
- 24 Popular dish containing animal fat (4)
- 25 Worries about small gesture of affection (6)
- 26 Implication not concealed by one (8)

DOWN

- 1 Gave a sermon quietly to get at journalist (8)
- 2 Small number lifted by church in times past (4)
- 3 Rider's rests cause trouble, then spur breaks (8)
- 4 Communist record for excessive bureaucracy (3,4)
- 5 Repair broken sword (6)
- 6 Generally accepted practice for the assembly (10)
- 7 Strong, almost entirely a clay block structure (6)
- 13 Cathedral where we christen, perhaps? (10)
- 17 Went ahead after beginning to be alarmed (8)
- 18 Unaware of rating on outing (8)
- 19 Bird and salmon eaten by pig (7)



- 21 River rodent rises to the surface (6)
- 22 I am his favourite subject (6)
- 24 Reportedly steal instrument (4)