

ACROSS

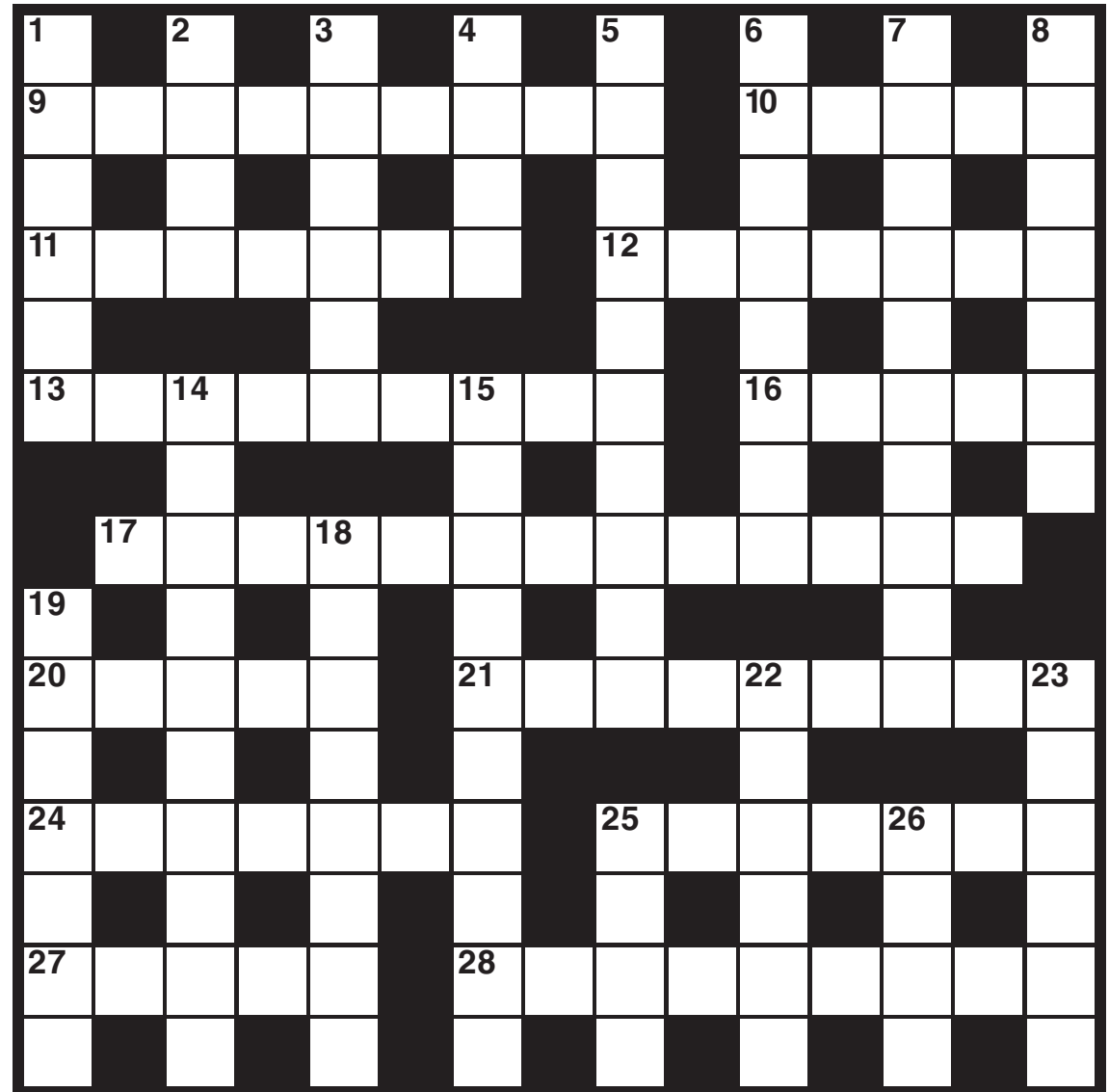
- 9 Criminal tennis player? (9)
 10 A small department is proficient (5)
 11 Most flexible article in catalogue (7)
 12 Ruin meal by keeping cold (7)
 13 Awful stench may be caused by sailors (9)
 16 Bear to hold end of rope and pull (5)
 17 Stickler's tense about it, so in trouble (13)
 20 Smart? No getting round non-drinker (5)
 21 Minster, eg, rebuilt for army units (9)
 24 Girl, during month, gets to ham it up (7)
 25 Hot garden recess provides shelter (7)
 27 Keeping relative? That's stupid (5)
 28 Soberly wanders around copper, in a vague way (9)

DOWN

- 1 Attempt to secure one pound for hat (6)
 2 Small reduction marks the end of a rabbit (4)
 3 Tell again about the turf (6)
 4 Payment cut in the past (4)
 5 Quietly taking offence about making an introduction (10)
 6 Monkey about to inch up craftily (8)
 7 Monitor a bet, spoken roughly (4,4,2)
 8 Yarns I found in shops (7)
 14 Gossip at length? Jack Sprat's wife would! (4,3,3)
 15 Softening spice, allocated amount (10)
 18 Pest-control article in astute news-sheet (8)

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- 19 The Merchant of Venice seeing bug on moon (7)
 22 Knock back two drinks and speak indistinctly (6)
 23 Wanders from the street lights (6)
 25 Headless phantom army (4)
 26 Sign of Disney fish returning (4)