

ACROSS

- 1 Bitterness, sharp taste (7)
- 5 Lose energy (4)
- 8 Person employed to look after children (5)
- 9 Of a book, without a cover (7)
- 11 Exposed to the air (4)
- 12 Footrests for a horse rider (8)
- 15 In need of a scratch (5)
- 16 Unconcerned (5)
- 19 Antiquated salutation (3,5)
- 21 Accrue, acquire (4)
- 23 Mechanical writer (7)
- 25 Courtroom official (5)
- 26 The one following (4)
- 27 Offer a bet (3,4)

DOWN

- 2 Vain (9)
- 3 *Burmese* ____, Orwell's first novel (4)
- 4 Honest and firm (6)
- 5 Overly (3)
- 6 Bowler's approach (3-2)
- 7 Coalition, alliance (5)
- 10 Rob premises (6)
- 13 Not hurt at all (9)
- 14 Desire for liquid (6)
- 17 Radio code word for one of the letters of the alphabet (6)
- 18 Place of access (5)
- 20 Sizeable (5)
- 22 Spain's currency unit (4)
- 24 Larva of a louse adhering to human hair (3)

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