

Each down solution has a common factor that is not represented in the wordplay of the clue. Definitions within these clues reflect the word to be entered. Across clues are normal.

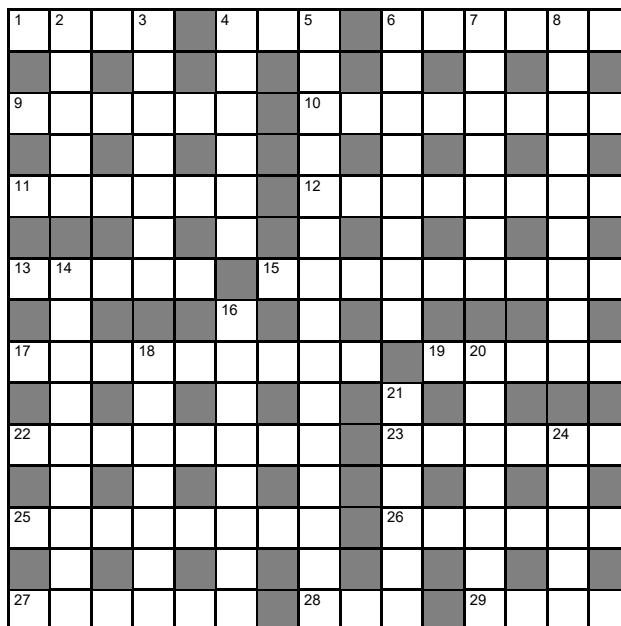
July 2025 Slot 5 by CT

Across

- 1 Plan cycling help (4)
- 4 Idiot heading off, right away (3)
- 6 One-time number of The Beatles heard with R.E.M backing (6)
- 9 Crude dictator's twisted and naked (6)
- 10 Old Uni performance making a comeback with stars missing arrival of Quasimodo and Frankenstein, perhaps (8)
- 11 Limits of go-ahead without debt (6)
- 12 Heater type, plastered with timber lining (3-5)
- 13 Rogue from south side (5)
- 15 Cleaner, renovating our semi, had no right (9)
- 17 Spoilers disrupted primaries (9)
- 19 Way to dismiss batter dividing test umpires (5)
- 22 Car like a roller coaster standing by a group of emotionless folk (8)
- 23 Bad-tempered, petty PM urging part retraction (6)
- 25 I tear around and around - for one hot item! (4-4)
- 26 Ms Murdoch hiding sex appeal - it's visually inflammatory! (6)
- 27 Plant from a second dam (6)
- 28 Quiet, yet useless place for showing paintings! (3)
- 29 Art movement? (4)

Down

- 2 Dispute ends religious belief (5)
- 3 Throwback shown by a tax rise (7)
- 4 Schadenfreude, possibly, from the German flipping (6)
- 5 Reportage of day in Paris, restricted by tiny amount of light the French rejected (15)
- 6 Final resignation (8)
- 7 Genuineness of rock broadcast (7)
- 8 In context, reminders of out-there views (9)
- 14 Election tally unfinished, locking up thousands, giving rise to totalitarian regime (9)
- 16 Creature from ascendant DNA group (8)
- 18 Epicurean's ideal peeled tomato mixture (7)
- 20 Exploration by wandering unfinished route (7)
- 21 Argue regularly it's discrimination (6)



- 24 Perhaps a gem of a career for spinner? (5)