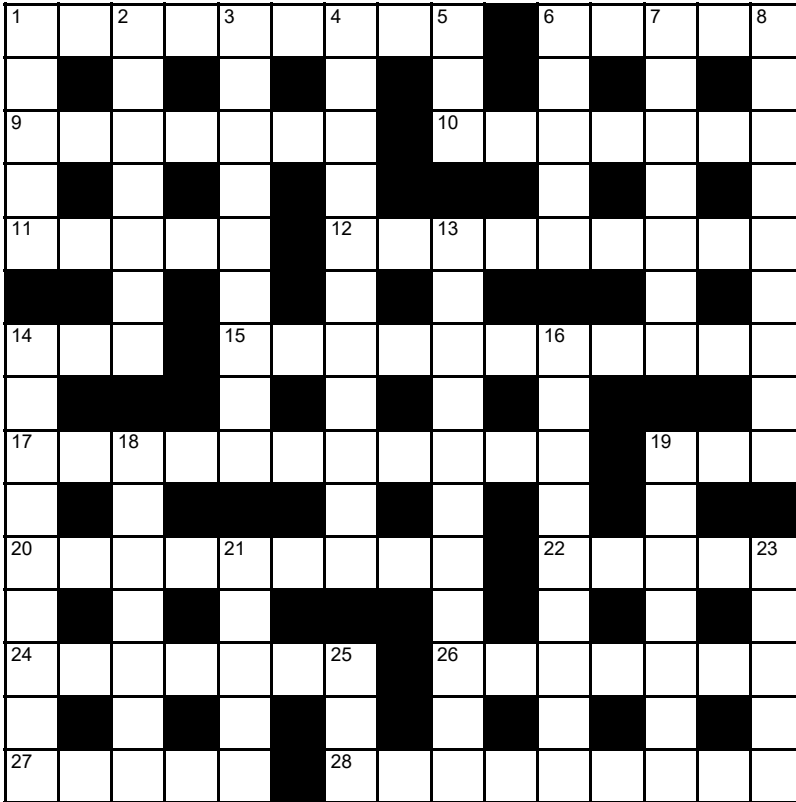


# CROSSWORD

No 17,282 Set by NEO



## ACROSS

- 1 Ask why I'm smashed with Conservative supplying drink? (6,3)
- 6 Austere American soldier with free admission? (5)
- 9 Overwhelming when cocaine's distributed? (7)
- 10 Dilemma for British leaving en masse for starters? (7)
- 11 19 across surrounding King Sargon's principal informer? (5)
- 12 Nick almost bowled when century witnessed here? (9)
- 14 Routine when animals do it? (3)
- 15 Dylan won't need staff to design walker's aid (6,5)
- 17 Neurotic mummy's boy lately seen with editor (11)
- 19 Empty talk in managing assets (3)
- 20 Green site destroyed in African park (9)
- 22 Amusing performer gloomy in cold north (5)
- 24 European Court function's reversed to cover voter? (7)
- 26 Hard for bank to invest in legislative assembly? (7)
- 27 Old executioner shows craft (5)
- 28 Elect any maladroitness imbecile — ultimately it's a 19 across! (9)

## DOWN

- 1 Wife right on — and good — but there's wickedness? (5)
- 2 Muddled in topos instance of rumpy-pumpy? (7)
- 3 As Henry VIII eventually was, aptly? (4-5)
- 4 Worthless audio device has important second application (6,5)
- 5 Flatfoot beginning to compromise operation (3)
- 6 Spanish red I love in damaged jar (5)
- 7 Festival — it lifted a Roman province (7)
- 8 Bosses and actors around pit (9)
- 13 Terrific band that goes right round the globe (5,6)
- 14 Female leaves dowdy women with wood cut (4,5)
- 16 Involving trust, one copper's about to stop Friday rioting (9)
- 18 Most enormous knotted rag brought inside in case (7)
- 19 Farewell bargain announced (7)
- 21 Score, in first place, nine over the closing holes (5)
- 23 Bottle perhaps attached to optic? (5)
- 25 Scandinavian rug Mary Astor keeps (3)

## JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,281



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