

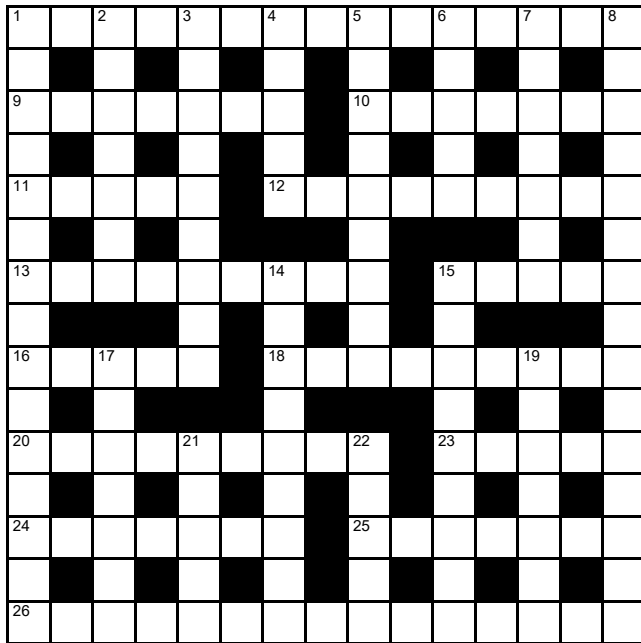
Crossword 17,439 Set by JULIUS

ACROSS

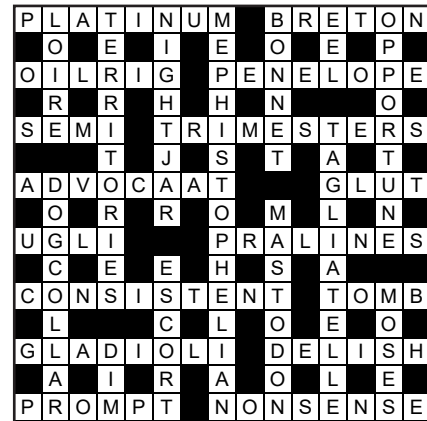
- 1** Bach pens a cello composition, new piece in D major (10,5)
- 9** Get better insurance following road rage on vacation (7)
- 10** Straw hat, notebook covering stand for occasional furniture (7)
- 11** Brainbox leaving independent class (5)
- 12** Gun commercial "sick" — old Texan resident (9)
- 13** Formal meeting among German carmakers that is boring (9)
- 15** Bewildered adults grappling with American poet, initially (2,3)
- 16** Bar on board services to Paddington (5)
- 18** Like ridiculously baggy trousers of Bogart I tailored? (3,3,3)
- 20** Artificial Intelligence confusing Starmer? It's a wind up (9)
- 23** King devoured large animal (5)
- 24** Sing about Italy's premier island wine (7)
- 25** It draws in liquid — constant pressure jetted without limits (7)
- 26** Classic work about eg Anthony Barber? (10,5)

DOWN

- 1** Steer clear of preening bird (9,6)
- 2** Clown knocking over barrel which contains milk (7)
- 3** What happens in autumn killing large earwig (9)
- 4** Birmingham having a change of heart over a country renamed (5)
- 5** Liberal woman upset with English-run device for making cuts (4,5)
- 6** Comedian fed hospital food item (5)
- 7** Improper nouns (including plural) leave one confounded (7)
- 8** Central London location famous for its public hangings? (8,7)
- 14** Crook Nixon — life in ruins (9)
- 15** Religious books stolen by Gestapo, cry Phalangists (9)
- 17** Happier time for male dog (7)
- 19** Feature of spa city of 26, but from the south (7)
- 21** Husband, after pulling up net, caught fish (5)
- 22** Mum regularly pulped wood (5)



Solution 17,439



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Jotter pad