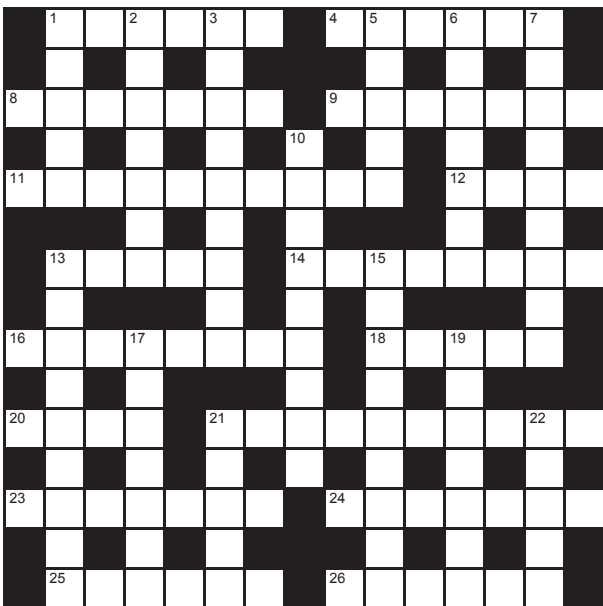


Crossword 13,996 Set by Mudd

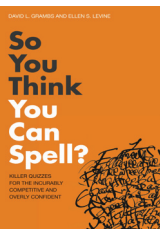
ACROSS

- 1 Many, many soldiers? (6)
- 4 Type of blood applied to wound mark, as old lucky charm (6)
- 8 Label as cold nothing that's hot (7)
- 9 Decline to grab rest, showing obtuseness (7)
- 11 Uncomfortable when up ladders, so wobbling, then ending in catastrophe! (6-4)
- 12 Club Ipanema, Rio, offering nibbles for starters (4)
- 13 Ingenious sting (5)
- 14 Boy is punching cunning criminal (8)
- 16 Ward, perhaps, finding fly in the ointment (8)
- 18 Top dog's bite (5)
- 20 Bullets knocking head and tail from pig (4)
- 21 Quota of troops goes firstly into massive area (10)
- 23 Impudence in power, Queen Mary's initial route? (7)
- 24 A free choice of routes, however (7)
- 25 Garment packed with cannabis? (6)
- 26 Whiten strand, preserving length (6)



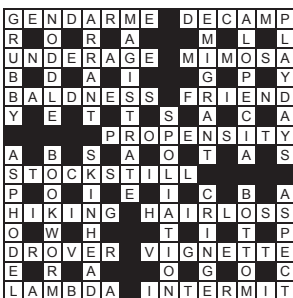
DOWN

- 1 Capital of Brazil has abstained (5)
- 2 Old man needing foreign money to plug gap, perhaps (7)
- 3 Those in the pit, with knackered horse and cart (9)
- 5 Con taken off real island (5)
- 6 Old country moving right to the top in a new nationality (7)
- 7 Last drink bringing good health (7,2)
- 10 King supporting country in blow for all females (9)
- 13 One preparing eggs for biker? (9)
- 15 Cat with lesion that's not good in parts (9)
- 17 Band welcomed in little exclamation of joy (7)
- 19 Country song about blogger oddly ignored (7)
- 21 Dilapidated car, the gutted jalopy (5)
- 22 Not entirely alone, at home in Welsh town (5)

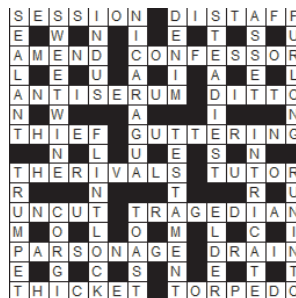


Copies of *How to Sound Clever* by Hubert van den Bergh and *So You Think You Can Spell* by David L. Grambs and Ellen S. Levine, published by A&C Black, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday May 16. Entries marked Crossword 13,996 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on May 19.

Solution 13,995



Solution 13,984



Name.....

Address.....

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