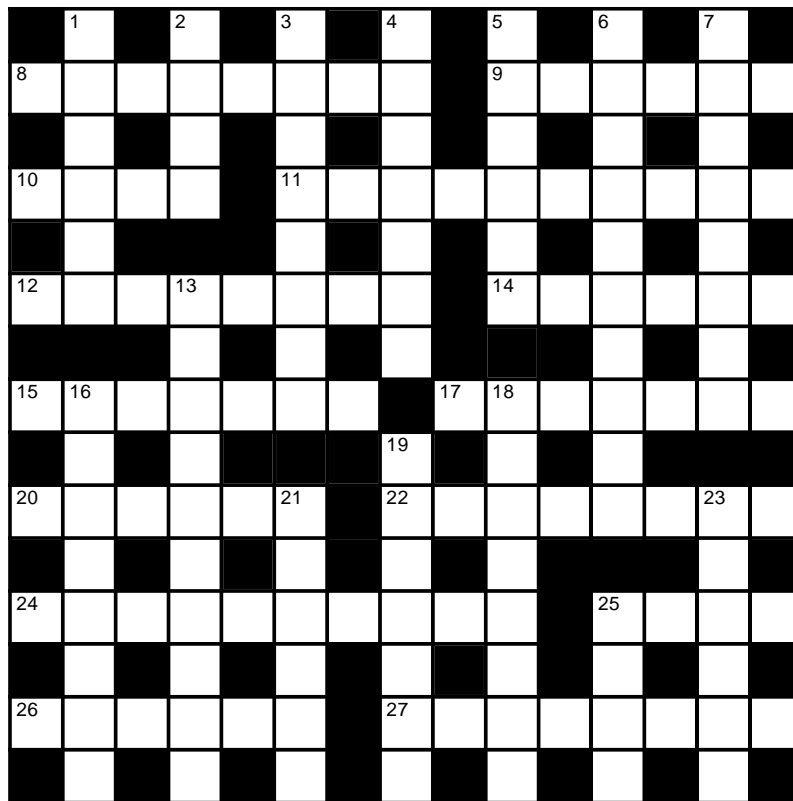


Theme and Variations



The theme, which is unstated, arises from the words of 6 to, among others, some 19s. This in turn leads to three sets of variations. All these are partially clued.

Across

- 8** VAR A: He worked in Marlowe (8)
9 Prick-tease, but no deal, unfortunately (4,2)
10,2 VAR C: Vegetables and insects (8)
11 He fingers penises in law (3,7)
12 In general, legal due is doubtful (2,6)
14 Judo level's hard pastry (6)
15 Work papers are tyrannical (7)
17 Corrosive imam on a tour (7)
20 VAR C: Umpire's back, holding a serviceman (6)
22 Lamb might be, for example, in building sites (8)
24 American comic ballad (5,5)
25 First person who's foreign to take DJ with top off gets a ballet(4)
26 Noisy accident for Royal Family in the nursery (6)

- 27** Pensioners altering Dads' role (3,5)

Down

- 1** VAR A: Hope some bees fly away (6)
2 See 10
3 Bull goes bananas? Balls! (8)
4 Many of Barnaby's slaves (7)
5 Florid orgy in Essex (6)
6 Two boys (4,6)
7 VAR B: A lot of country seen by runner (8)
13 VAR B: Hit Mach I? Bravo! (10)
16 VAR C: The woman's set on fucking a cop (8)
18 Dupes girl about important part (8)
19 High treason (7)
21 VAR A: A pain in the sides (6)
23 VAR C: Quantities of paper, last to first (6)
25 VAR A: A small jumper (4)