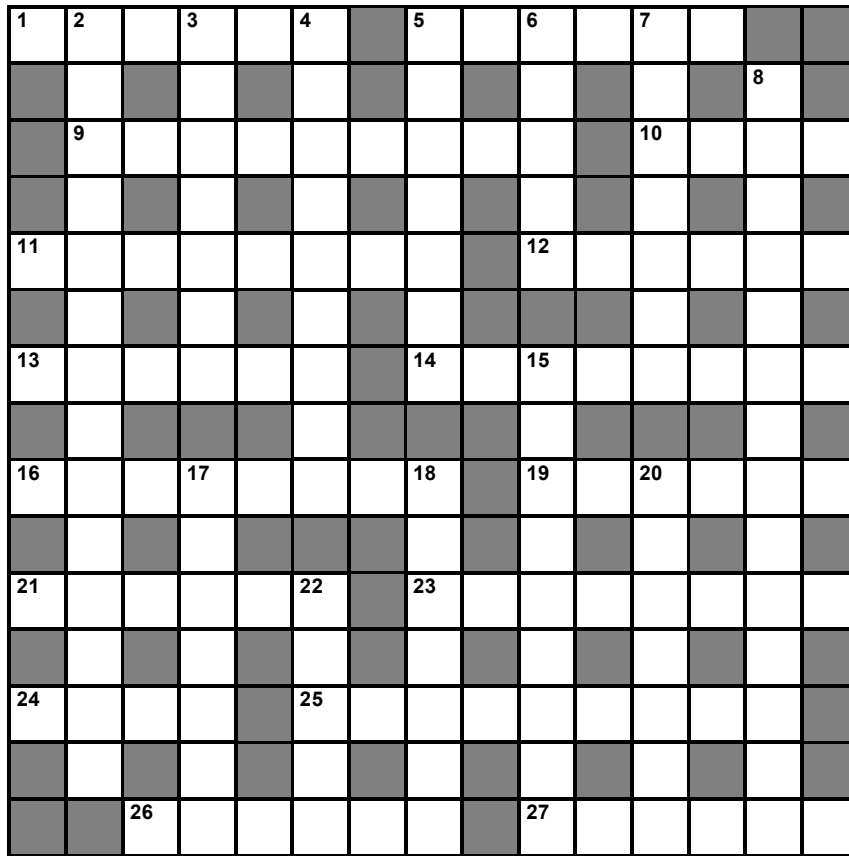


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ACROSS

- 1 Last lot of apples with seed sections removed should be graded (6)
- 5 Take off financial reward for working around staff (6)
- 9 Reconvening of tribunal about counsel's opening should be reducing friction (9)
- 10 Team losing right to get promoted (2,2)
- 11 Frame of a window, for instance, sealed with glue (8)
- 12 Department's facing land shortage (6)
- 13 Rodent biting edge of side dish (6)
- 14 Variable resistor is hot in defective toaster (8)
- 16 Brilliant story not abridged by editor (8)
- 19 Emergency vehicle losing a passenger is used repeatedly (6)
- 21 Top decoration, one collected in major sporting event (6)
- 23 Computer system seized in undercover operation is not on the level (8)
- 24 Active iodine extracted from ice in the past (4)
- 25 Missile used in war games ain't coated in lead completely (9)
- 26 Keep middle of kayak level (6)
- 27 Plan is backed by head of government in study (6)

DOWN

- 2 Company retrieved delivery addresses with teamwork (14)
- 3 Many sets of tennis shoes? (7)
- 4 Band's diameter printed on broken lever bit (5,4)
- 5 Outspoken hairdresser is a dish (7)
- 6 Had course, say, in middle of road, assessed (5)
- 7 Finish wheelwork and place markers (3-4)
- 8 All guitar fans cracked up after introduction of a country standard (10,4)
- 15 Delighted singer finished early in finale (9)
- 17 Noticeable form of identification worn in competition (7)
- 18 Fortune and time put into animated production of Disney (7)
- 20 Crying irritated retinas (2,5)
- 22 Drive off heading north with a sick person (5)