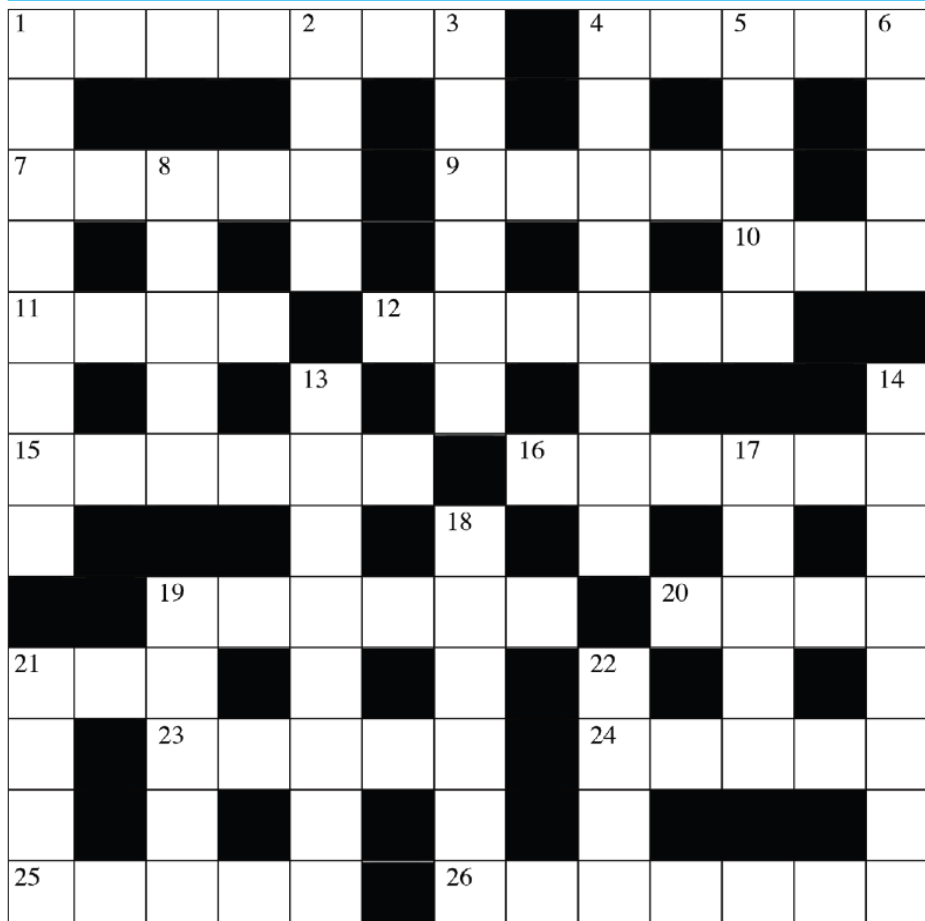


French-themed crossword

by John Foley



Note all answers are words or names associated with France

Across

- 1 Word for both referee and umpire (7)
- 4 Substance *translucide et visqueuse* secreted by membranes and glands for lubrication or protection (5)
- 7 Cord used for the strings of some musical instruments or on rackets in certain sports (5)
- 9 Burp or belch (5)
- 10 In music, term equivalent to the Italian 'vivace' or English 'quite fast' (3)
- 11 Improper use of something, such as alcohol (4)
- 12 State of having paid work (6)
- 15 Safe place for very young children during the day while parents are at work (6)
- 16 Position of a person or type of person in a system (6)
- 19 To loosen or let go of (6)
- 20 *Mouvement effectué pour s'élaner* (4)
- 21 French equivalent of the RSPCA (1,1,1)
- 23 Ingress and egress through this (5)
- 24 Aromatic plant of the *Apiaceae* family – especially good in fish dishes (5)
- 25 Canvas shelter (5)
- 26 Original or starting (7)

Down

- 1 A place's atmosphere (8)
- 2 Air expelled from the lungs with a sudden sharp sound (4)
- 3 Milk from which all the cream or milkfat has been removed (6)
- 4 *Ragoût de poisson* (8)
- 5 Fragrant spice of the family in 24 across used in rye bread (5)
- 6 *Désir de boire* (4)
- 8 Holm oak or *chêne vert* – commonly found in the Midi (5)
- 13 Plant of the dandelion family whose root can be used as a coffee substitute (8)
- 14 Nom de plume of 19th-century writer Marie-Henri Beyle (8)
- 17 Lightweight, fine, stiff netting named after a town in Nouvelle-Aquitaine where it originated (5)
- 18 Green vegetable, again of the family in 24 across – an excellent source of antioxidants, beneficial enzymes and vitamin K (6)
- 19 Big-eared herbivorous mammal popular in stew (5)
- 21 In nautical terms, direction *sud-est* (4)
- 22 Eccentric film director whose best-known character is Monsieur Hulot (4)

French-themed crossword
Across: 1 arbitre, 4 mucus, 7 boyau, 9 roter, 10 vif, 11 abus, 12 emploi, 15 arête, 16 statut, 19 lèche, 20 élan, 21 spa, 23 porte, 24 aneth, 25 tente, 26 initial.
Down: 1 ambiance, 2 toux, 3 crème, 4 matotes, 5 carvi, 6 soif, 8 yuse, 13 chicorée, 14 Stendhal, 17 tulle, 18 celeri, 19 lapin, 21 suet, 22 Tati.
Fun French facts
 1 Michel coached Cameroon in 1994, Morocco in 1998 and Côte d'Ivoire in 2006. 2 The ythrow Menhirs 3 She is a champion speed knitter.