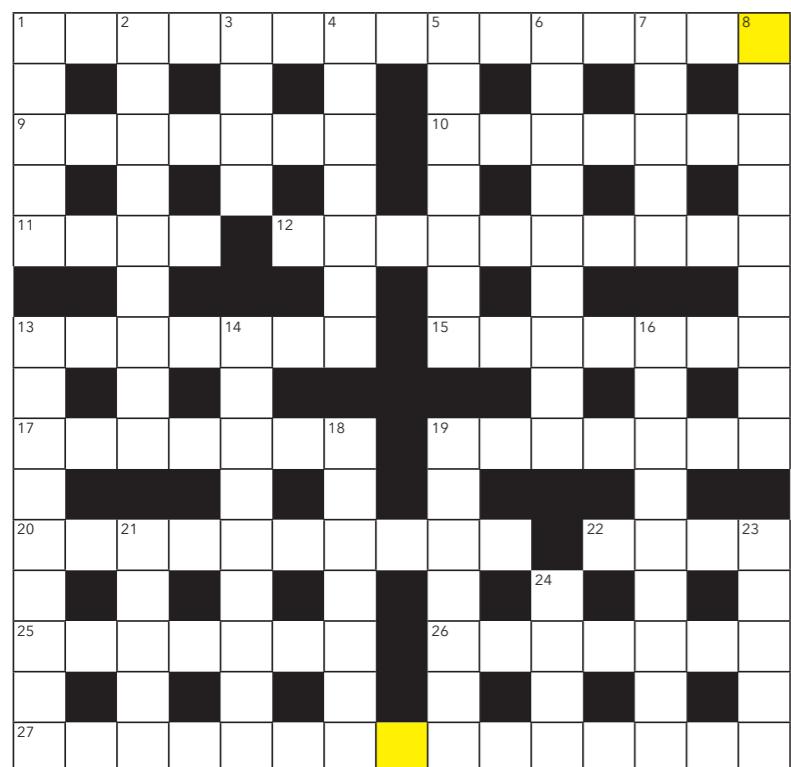


**February 2026 crossword****Cryptic**

Across

- Old salt wrapped in sackcloth (7, 2, 6)
- Ruin me playing original heavy metal (7)
- Not all feel it is middle class snobbery (7)
- Consumes feast without starter surprisingly (4)
- I order facial trim leaving moustache to begin with. Unreal! (10)
- Expensive French article found at church (7)
- Getting some bargain in Greece (7)
- Second guitar string broken due to corrosion? (7)
- Close attachment to bedroom attire? (7)
- Rocky writing about ugly prophet leaving university (10)
- A little fizz included-could be galvanising! (4)
- Think Wellington has a small reservoir? (7)
- Cheaper equine equipment that is leather at last (7)
- Physicist ordered newer tolerances (6, 1, 8)

Quick

Across

- Old salt wrapped in sackcloth (7, 2, 6)
- Ruin me playing original heavy metal (7)
- Not all feel it is middle class snobbery (7)
- Consumes feast without starter surprisingly (4)
- I order facial trim leaving moustache to begin with. Unreal! (10)
- Expensive French article found at church (7)
- Getting some bargain in Greece (7)
- Second guitar string broken due to corrosion? (7)
- Close attachment to bedroom attire? (7)
- Rocky writing about ugly prophet leaving university (10)
- A little fizz included-could be galvanising! (4)
- Think Wellington has a small reservoir? (7)
- Cheaper equine equipment that is leather at last (7)
- Physicist ordered newer tolerances (6, 1, 8)

Down

- 23 Down Revised files regularly left out mercurial radiochemist (5, 5)
- Engineer oddly needed strong units (9)
- I'd follow a clue initially far from base (4)
- Without any elementary form of plant life (3, 4)
- Microbiologist has fling without me turning up (7)
- Song about 13 leading dancers could lead to 17 Across (9)
- With such a defence, I get bail sorted (5)
- Oscar mixes endlessly gloomy hue for the next in the series (9)
- Opencast upsets first Parks Minister (5, 4)
- I admitted writing about snoopers like the Borgias? (9)
- Hunch about iodine nutrition lacking resistance (9)
- I'll go around A & E to find the polymath (7)
- Path around a border north reveals a fraction of the oil (7)
- Tolkien rejects lithium as payment (5)
- See 1 Down (5)
- Discoverer of osmium and iridium (8, 7)
- Wound endless neckwear (4)

**February 2026 wordoku**

Solve this wordoku in the same way as a sudoku with letters instead of numbers (each of the nine letters in each row, column and nine-square cell). Once solved, one of the overall diagonals can be rearranged to give the name of a chemist recognised by an RSC Blue Plaque in London.

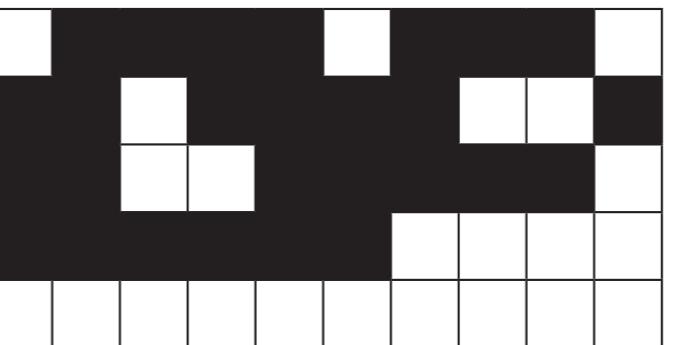
**Win £50 with GPE Scientific**

Solve the next six cryptic crosswords to reveal a hidden chemistry term. Collect the yellow-square letters, unscramble them after June's puzzle and enter to win one of ten £50 prizes. Find the February, April and June puzzles at [chemistryworld.com/puzzles](http://chemistryworld.com/puzzles)

**February 2026 elements grid**

For this new puzzle, use the clues to assign each column of the grid a unique element symbol (with T standing for tritium), so that each row spells out a solution to its own clue, and the final row includes all eight symbols.

Al	Ar	C	Ce	Er	La	O	S	Th	W
----	----	---	----	----	----	---	---	----	---

**Clues:**

- Armed conflicts (4)
- Froth (6)
- Ties (5)
- Not you or I (6)
- Polymer chemist (7, 9)

**Entry form**

There are four prize puzzles on this page: cryptic crossword; quick crossword; wordoku; and coronene. For each puzzle, a winner will be selected from all the correct entries received and awarded a £25 UK book voucher.

You can enter any or all of the prize draws, but each entrant is only eligible to win one of the individual puzzle prizes each month.

Please enter your details below and email a scan or photograph of this page with your completed entries to us by **18 February 2026**. The winners of this month's puzzles will be published in the March 2026 issue, along with the solutions.

Email: [chemistryworld@rsc.org](mailto:chemistryworld@rsc.org)

Name .....

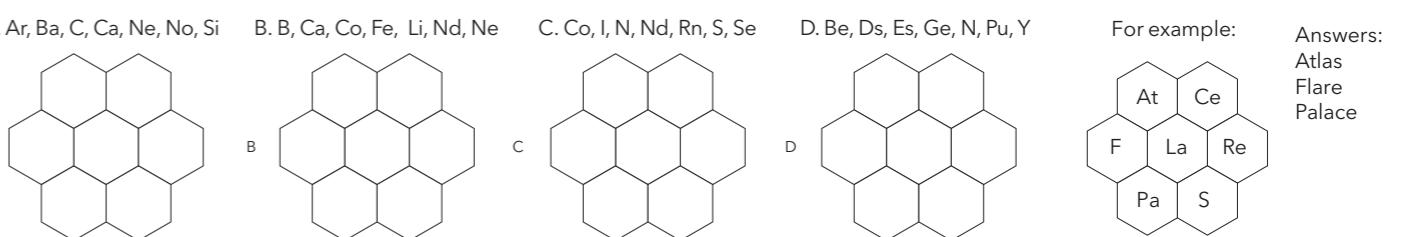
Address .....

Participants are advised that any personal information supplied will be processed in connection with this competition and only in accordance with our privacy statement ([www.chemistryworld.com/privacy](http://www.chemistryworld.com/privacy)).

GPE Scientific is your specialist provider of chemistry and life science equipment. Our technical specialists visit labs across the UK and Ireland to understand your science and recommend the right equipment for your research, while our globally supplied J Young® air-free chemistry apparatus is designed and manufactured in-house.

**February 2026 coronene puzzle**

Place each of the seven elemental symbols in one hexagon of coronene to spell three words, one horizontally and two diagonally. Plural words are allowed, but you may not switch the order of the letter in any two-letter symbols (eg, sodium must be Na, not aN). The four symbols in the central hexagon of each of this month's coronenes can be combined to spell out the name of an element.

**Elements:****January 2026 solutions and winners****Cryptic****Quick****Wordoku**

The German chemist specialising in microbial nature products was Jeroen DICKSCAHT.

**Coronene puzzle**

- Biases, Feasts, Waste
- Retain, Stage, Titan
- Actin, Otic, Patina
- Genera, Linear, Sinew

The element running across is Astatine

**January winners**

Coronene  
Catherine Johnson  
Marlow, UK

**Wordoku**

Wordoku  
Alan Tucker  
Bristol, UK

Cryptic crossword  
Roger Williams  
Lee-on-the-Solent, UK