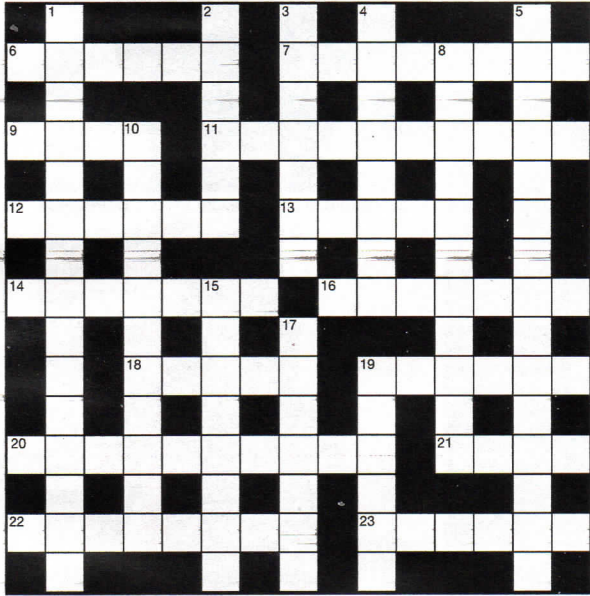


£500 TO BE WON ★ NO 1,744

TO ENTER Complete the crossword and count how many times the letter 'A' appears in the grid. Text YOU followed by a space, your answer (the number of 'A's) and name to 65700, eg, YOU 9 Sue Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Or telephone 0905 652 2141 and leave your answer and details. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Or post your entry to YOU Crossword

No 1,744, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 9 April. One random winner from all correct entries will win £250 and five runners-up will win £50 each. If you enter after the closing date you will not be included but may still be charged. Phone and text helpline: 0330 100 0601. Winners will be notified by phone within 14 days. Solution in two weeks.



NUMBER 1,744

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 TEL.....
 YOUR ANSWER.....

6 One of the most frequently performed and recorded composers (surname) (1860-1911) (6)
7 A person from the US state that has Phoenix as its capital (8)
9 (and **14 across** and **19 across** and **23 across** and **4 down**) Proverb suggesting that a person will ascribe a mistake to their equipment rather than admit their own lack of skill (1,3,7,6,6,3,5)
11 Replacement (10)

12 Hesitant, uncertain (6)
13 Mildly satirical mockery or parody (5)
14 See **9 across**
16 Narrow strip of land - bordered by water - connecting two larger bodies of land (7)
18 Settles in - like a bird (5)
19 See **9 across**
20 Disorganised brawl (4-3-3)
21 There are approximately 525,600 minutes in a normal one (4)
22 Biased, unfair (3-5)
23 See **9 across**

DOWN
1 Most of us would like to reduce ours (6,9)
2 Sad for a French person (6)
3 Criticise someone severely (7)
4 See **9 across**

5 As collected by Geoffrey Chaucer (10,5)
8 Uncommon or unusual (3-2-3-3)
10 Inebriation (11)
15 Bolts, flees (8)
17 Countries completely surrounded by water (7)
19 Improvises (2-4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1,742

