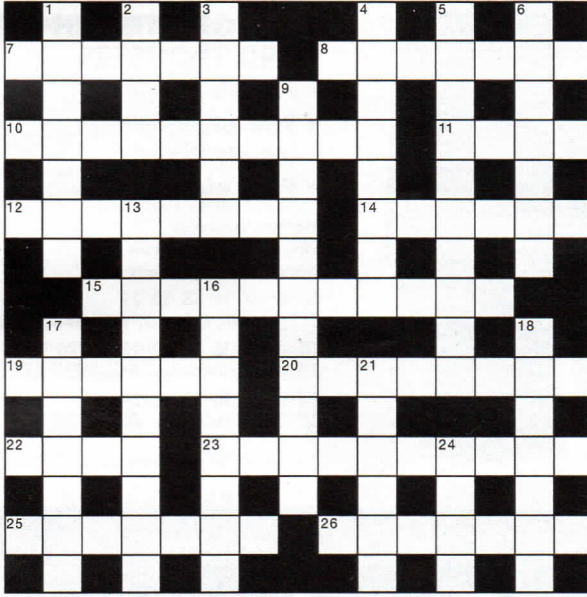


TO ENTER Complete the crossword and count how many times the letter 'A' appears in the grid. Text YOU followed by a space, your answer (the number of 'A's) and name to 65700, eg, YOU 9 Sue Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Or telephone 0905 652 2141 and leave your answer and details.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

No 1,709, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 7 August. 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 1,709

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

ACROSS

- 7** Lowered in price (7)
- 8** 16th-century English dramatist and poet (surname) (7)
- 10** Country beaten by England in the final of the 2019 Cricket World Cup (3,7)
- 11** Landlocked North African country, capital N'Djamena (4)
- 12** Ruined (8)
- 14** Egypt's President from 1956 till 1970 (surname) associated with **2** down (6)
- 15** (and **19** across and **22** across and **24** down) Proverb suggesting that

- partial possession or attainment of an object or achievement is preferable to having no object or achievement at all (4,1,4,2,6,4,4)
- 19** See **15** across
- 20** Large animal to which the adjective 'pachydermatous' can be applied (8)
- 22** See **15** across
- 23** While not present (2,8)
- 25** Vacation (7)
- 26** Atrocious (7)

DOWN

- 1** In the Bible, she was the wicked wife of Ahab (7)
- 2** Canal in the Middle East, centre of an international crisis in 1956 (4)

- 3** Renovate (6)
- 4** One of the Mediterranean's largest islands (8)
- 5** An artisan who works iron with a furnace, anvil and hammer (10)
- 6** Perspired (7)
- 9** French national holiday in July (8,3)
- 13** Game played with a pear-shaped racquet in a four-walled indoor court, (4,6)
- 16** Ludicrous (8)
- 17** To redo a scene in a film (7)
- 18** Worried, uneasy (7)
- 21** Simpler (6)
- 24** See **15** across

SOLUTION TO NO 1,707

