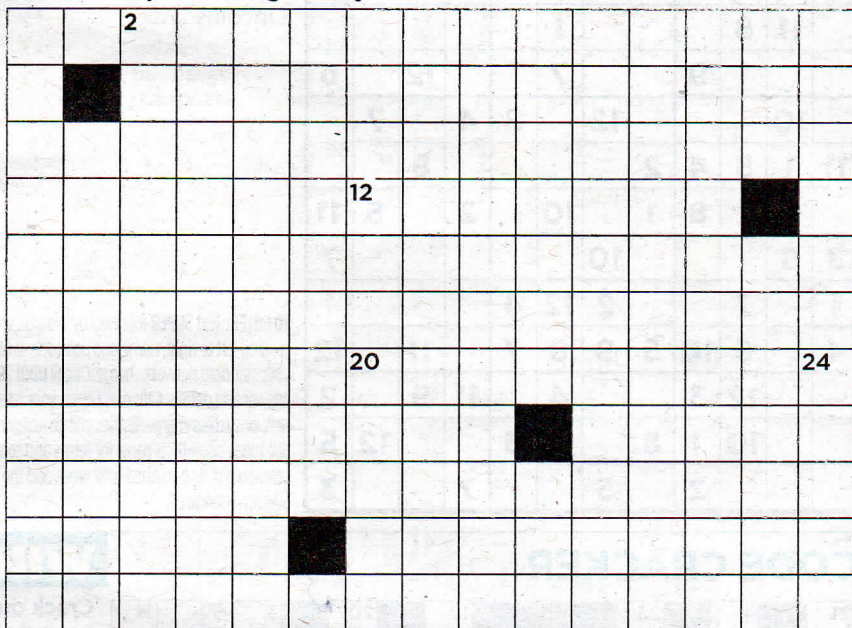


# BARE BONES

**WIN A COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS SET, AND A BRADFORD'S CROSSWORD SOLVER'S DICTIONARY**



Our Bare Bones Crossword is unique because you have to complete the grid - numbers and squares - as well. We have inserted four black squares and four clue numbers to get you going. The crossword has a four-way symmetry: both top and bottom and left and right match, so you can fill in 12 more squares straight away.



There is a prize of a Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus set, and a Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary. Send your solution to: Bare Bones Puzzle No 979, The Mail on Sunday, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries must arrive by Friday, January 22 (photocopies not accepted). The winner's name will be published on February 7 from the first correct entry drawn. Winner of Bare Bones No 975: Mr Michael Gilligan, of London NW6. Winner of Bare Bones No 976: H. Williams, of Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.

**NAME** .....

**ADDRESS** .....

**POSTCODE** ..... **TELEPHONE** .....

## Across

- 1 Champagne brings witty complaint, we hear (Two words)
- 10 Caught Brexiteer getting a large knife
- 11 Strange about ambassador, in trouble, getting metal
- 12 Starts to get upset, making something chewed
- 13 Fundamental nature of perfume
- 15 Suggested everyone joins criminal dude
- 17 Walks like small monsters
- 21 Almost revere a trainee officer

- 25 Awful ogre holds record
- 26 Taking dog back, enjoy being divine
- 27 Note a French affair reveals deadly container (Two words)
- 28 New temp contained compound (Two words)

## Down

- 2 Journalists insist
- 3 Headless yellow bird
- 4 Huge order of lager
- 5 Roman composition, an opera
- 6 Spin bicycle trick that is missing
- 7 Developed an aid, in spirit
- 8 Expert conceals new complaint

- 9 Between a thousand and one and five hundred
- 14 Pass out of recollection
- 16 Guided by a small light
- 17 Gas used on old ingredient
- 18 Dirge composed for bank
- 19 Knowledge about island and river
- 20 Steel production in wintry conditions
- 21 Morag groaning about stropy behaviour
- 22 Frenzied, smashing cinema - no point
- 23 More almonds around field
- 24 Vegetable is smooth when front is removed