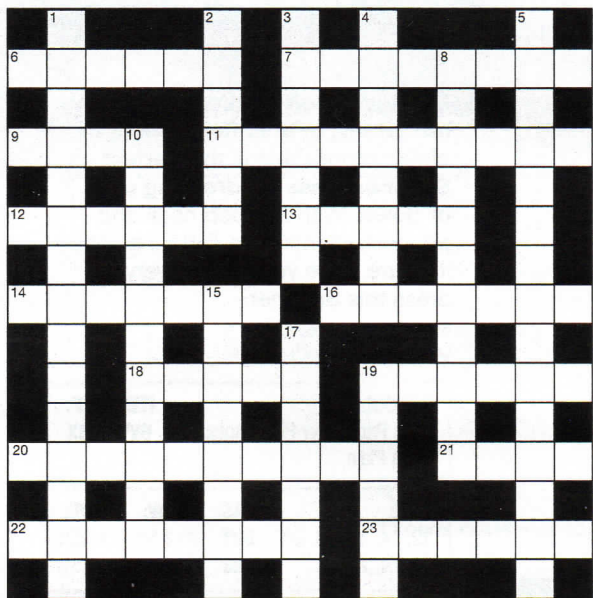


£500 TO BE WON ★ NO 1,699

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 1,699, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 29 May. 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 1,699

NAME.....

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YOUR ANSWER.....

ACROSS

- 6** The colour of the most lucrative set, statistically, to own in a game of **15 down** (6)
7 Murkier (8)
9 Way out there (4)
11 Railway station that is one of the most landed-on squares in **15 down** (5,5)
12 Even-tempered (6)
13 A woody plant, smaller than a tree, with several major branches (5)
14 Wine bottles holding the equivalent of two normal bottles (7)
16 Hectoring, deriding (7)
18 Unit of weight

- equivalent to 28.35 grams (5)
19 Articulate (6)
20 Placed close together or side by side (10)
21 Heavenly stringed instrument (4)
22 Unwaveringly loyal, especially to a country (4-4)
23 Legally guaranteed privileges (6)

DOWN

- 1** Statistically, the most landed-upon square in a game of **15 down** (9,6)
2 Made public without permission (6)
3 A muscle that applies force to allow movement to occur (7)
4 Preserve jam? (8)
5 An unwelcome person (7,3,5)
8 Street that is statistically one of the most landed-upon squares in a game of **15 down** (11)
10 Survey or inspect an

- enemy's position or region of land (11)
15 Property board game (8)
17 Highly contagious disease formerly common in children (7)
19 Felt or velvet hat that was allegedly named after an 1882 play (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1,697

