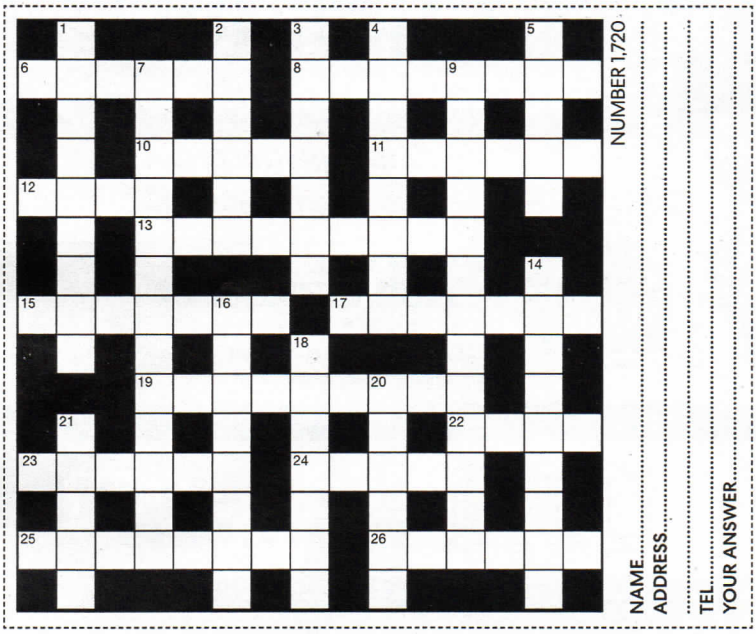
£500 TO BE WON ★ NO 1,720

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 1,720, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 23 October. 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.



ACROSS

6 The part of your body between your neck and your waist (6)
8 A stanza of five lines (8)
10 North Dakota's largest city (5)
11 The capital of Kansas (6)
12 Way out there (4)
13 Phoney, false (9)
15 Systematic study of the nature and behaviour of the material and physical universe (7)
17 Let up (4,3)
19 Pleasant (9)
22 Roman emperor from 54-68AD (4)
23 Draw back in alarm (6)
24 Gentleman's gentleman (5)
25 The capital of Finland (8)
26 Fall asleep – unintentionally (3,3)

DOWN

1 TV series written by and starring **5,18 down** (3,6)
2 TV series written by and starring **5,18 down** (6)
3 What you might have with a bank (7)
4 Detested person or thing (8)
5 (and **18 down**) British comedian, actor and writer (5,7)
7 As found in our kitchens (13)
9 Exceptional, unheard-of (13)
14 TV series written by and starring **5,18 down** (5,4)
16 North or South, it's a US State (8)
18 See **5 down**
20 Fit into, be part of (6)
21 TV series written by and starring **5,18 down** (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1,718

C	O	C	K	A	L	E	E	K	I	E	■	T	H	E
O	■	O	■	B	■	X	■	I	■	L	■	R	■	I
M	O	N	E	Y	■	P	I	N	K	F	L	O	Y	D
E	■	T	■	S	■	E	■	D	■	I	■	O	■	E
D	A	R	K	S	I	D	E	■	S	N	I	P	E	R
I	■	O	■	I	■	I	■	I	■	■	■	E	■	■
A	R	L	I	N	G	T	O	N	■	C	D	R	O	M
N	■	■	■	I	■	I	■	S	■	L	■	■	■	I
S	C	A	L	A	■	O	F	T	H	E	M	O	O	N
■	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	R	■	O	■	B	■	I
B	R	I	E	F	S	■	S	U	P	P	O	S	E	S
U	■	M	■	L	■	B	■	C	■	A	■	C	■	T
D	R	A	M	A	T	I	S	T	■	T	R	U	C	E
D	■	L	■	I	■	N	■	O	■	R	■	R	■	R
Y	E	S	■	R	O	G	E	R	W	A	T	E	R	S