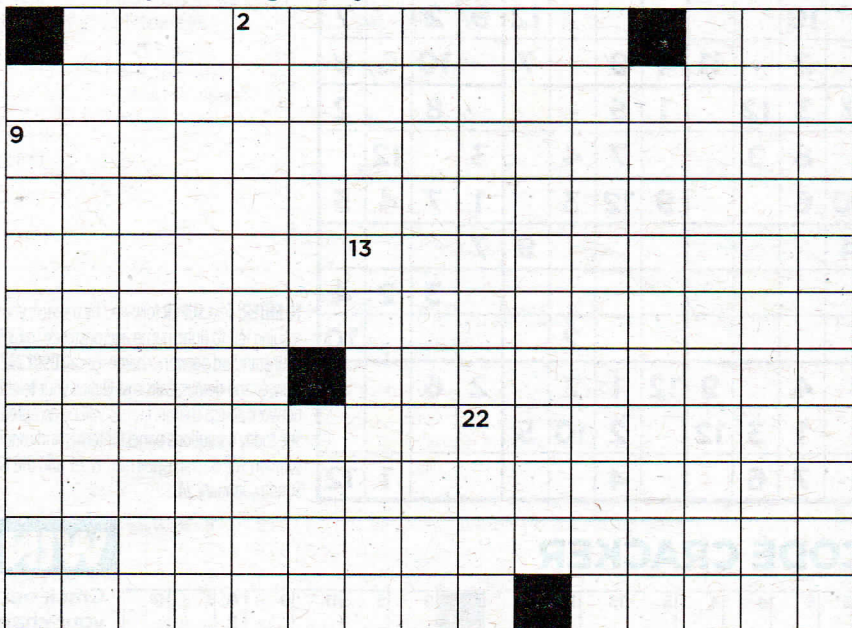


BARE BONES

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 977, The Mail on Sunday, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries must arrive by Friday, January 8 (photocopies not accepted). The winner's name will be published on January 24 from the first correct entry drawn.

Winner of Bare Bones No 974: David Moore, of Sheffield.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE TELEPHONE.....

Across

- 7 Blonde queen is more attractive
- 8 Minimal look over toy, missing nothing
- 11 Turn to cleaner for a delicacy
- 12 Choke and stagger, seeing American outtakes (Two words)
- 13 Fewer around an animal
- 15 Temperature that may be caught
- 16 Pam's swimming in some current
- 18 Creepy-crawly in a book

- 21 Republican warned about being depicted differently
- 22 Dance is nothing out of the ordinary
- 23 Divert deliberately from French protest
- 24 Around a thousand study part of London

Down

- 1 Impudence - bishops start on steps to organ (Two words)
- 2 Surround Roman leader in glory
- 3 Doctor to copy curtain
- 4 America has time for employment
- 5 Fellow aged internally with beastly complaint
- 6 Emerald isn't awfully aerodynamic
- 9 Food items Gerry ordered containing zero carbon
- 10 Note result upset some stars
- 14 Pale, point to article
- 17 Food as ordered by city with 500
- 18 Fish in the corner
- 19 Crashed, not having started lorry
- 20 Heavily bandaged relative?