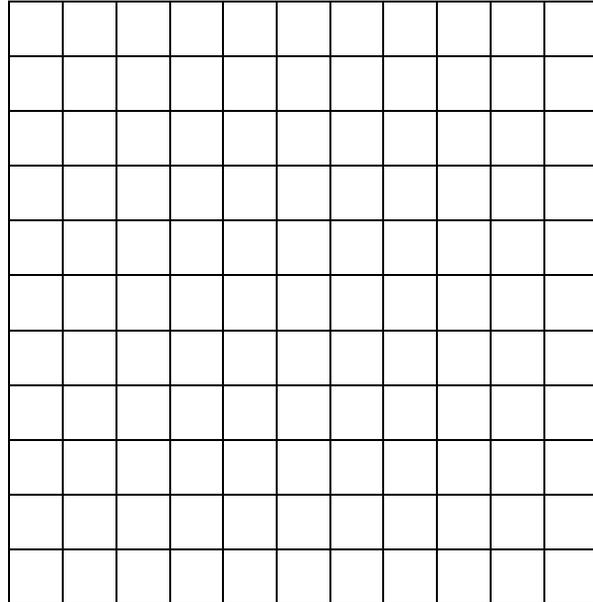


Contest Puzzle — December 2001 "Solver's Delight"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters, two are capitalized, and one is foreign), then enter ACROSS words in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Those that don't end at the right continue on the next row. Nine of them won't in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those nine letters, taken in order, spell a word that describes a successful puzzle solver. Clues to DOWN words are in random order. Solvers must determine where they belong in the grid and enter them accordingly, starting in the upper left corner. Those that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column.



Across

1. Study quiz challenge
2. Attack lust as a deviation
3. Lowly nickel in repast
4. Arm or leg I see, so to speak, as a brain system
5. Find affirmation in prayer
6. Field, losing 50, gets 500 sheets
7. Extra vehicle keeps functioning
8. Countess Lovelace on track of detection technology
9. Sound of cat saying "stinky track"
10. Is to petition for redress the crux of the matter?
11. English team
12. Secured and shaped about a hundred
13. Buddhist collection for the women's part of the house
14. Mad czar with slingshot
15. Tell about, for example, exile
16. Map Lombardy with assurance
17. She wrote of black beauty's excellence in growth
18. Element of drum roll involving three ones
19. Spice club
20. Long tree
21. When it doesn't rain, the doctor should
22. Screen play at Yale is what you see
23. Oddly altered pedal

Down

- West contains doubly sibilant stroke
- Cut dime in half
- Feign timeless stir
- Work party
- Fish flapping in a dress
- Medical lecture 151N99
- Three in Berlin sounding thirsty
- What looks about right for Jane
- Murmur a line about wall painting
- Comfort with large frame
- Two allowed to be worn on wrist
- Wrinkle new fabric
- Notice period saying
- After endless month, bed of fruit
- Shake a leg at swinging parties
- Charles at end of term in deep divide
- Hide purchase, holding right
- Copper lacking a piece of cake
- Rat, for example, torn about overdraft
- Stone wall has two-time color pattern
- Theater zone includes center of dance
- We enclose silver in payment