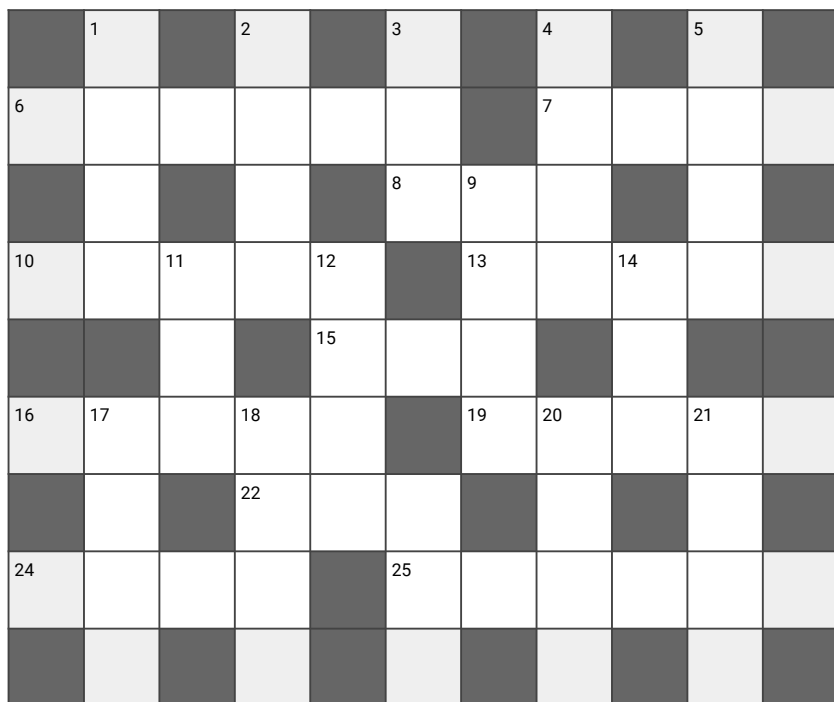


# 2024 Christmas crossword

by Tennisbat and Kazoo



## Cryptic clues

### ACROSS

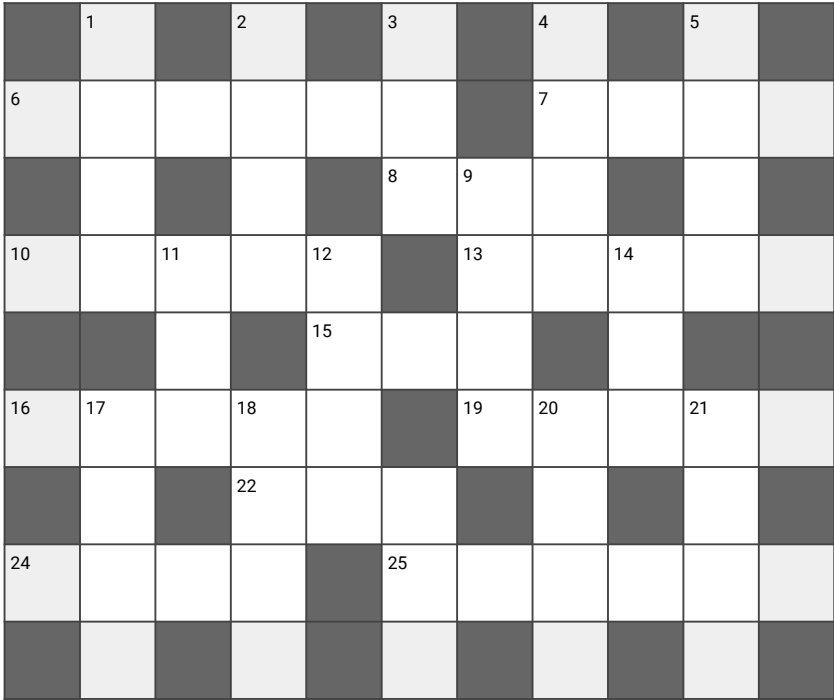
- 6** Raging in stuffier cellar (6)  
**7** A quiet old peak (4)  
**8** Post-production work leads to contractors getting involved (1.1.1.)  
**10** Stretch right before funny ache (5)  
**13** Resistance may follow in the style of French terror (5)  
**15** I make omelettes and routinely engage (3)  
**16** Wild swimmer totters endlessly (5)  
**19** Seasonal toy distributor is a saint in Spain (5)  
**22** Advantages for publicity (3)  
**24** Superlative copies taken from composites (4)  
**25** Makes changes before PM is finished (6)

### DOWN

- 1** Performer: "Me? I'm baffled!" (4)  
**2** A man from America (4)  
**3** Pressed on camera regarding copyright (3.)  
**4** Berate scandalous liar  
**5** Tidy earner holding for twelve months (4)  
**9** Jokes and chokes (4)  
**11** Even mascot is part of a play (3)  
**12** Drove the road, no tow-start needed (4)  
**14** Without measure, announce a lady's name (3)  
**17** Grand – what you used to be (4)  
**18** Points around at food (4)  
**20** Somehow wane all over again (4)  
**21** A list of faint odours (2-2)  
**23** Sedentary and posed for a portrait (3)

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## Conventional clues

### ACROSS

- 6 Raging (6)
- 7 Peak (4)
- 8 Post-production work, initialism (1.1.1.)
- 10 Stretch (5)
- 13 Terror (5)
- 15 Omelette ingredient (3)
- 16 Carnivorous animal (5)
- 19 Father Christmas (5)
- 22 Publicity (3)
- 24 Superlative (4)
- 25 Makes changes (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Silent performer (4)
- 2 \_\_\_ Idle, *Monty Python* star (4)
- 3 Camera button, abbreviation (3.)
- 4 Berate
- 5 Twelve months (4)
- 9 Chokes (4)
- 11 Part of a play (3)
- 12 Group of cattle (4)
- 14 \_\_\_ Widdecombe, politician and former *Strictly* star (3)
- 17 Old form of "you" (4)
- 18 Consumes (4)
- 20 Again (4)
- 21 Type of list (2-2)
- 23 Sedentary (3)

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# Solutions

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

## 6A FIERCE

Raging=definition

in=containment indicator

stuffer cellar=containment fodder

## 7A APEX

A=a

quiet=p ["piano", musical abbreviation]]

old=ex [in the sense of "former"]

peak=definition

## 8A C.G.I.

Post-production work=definition

leads to=initial-letter indicator

contractors getting

involved=initial-letter fodder

## 10A REACH

Stretch=definition

right=r [compare "l" for left]

before=placement indicator

funny=anagram indicator

ache=anagram fodder

## 13A ALARM

Resistance=r [physics abbreviation]

may=M [calendar abbreviation]

follow=placement indicator

in the style of, French=à la

terror=definition

## 15A EGG

I make omelettes=definition

and=linkword

routinely=alternation indicator

engage=alternation fodder

## 16A OTTER

Wild swimmer=definition

totters=central-letter fodder

endlessly=central-letter indicator

## 19A SANTA

Seasonal toy distributor=definition

is=linkword

a saint in Spain=definition

## 22A ADS

Advantages=ADs [tennis abbreviation]

for=linkword

publicity=definition

## 24A MOST

Superlative=definition

copies=subtracted part

taken from=subtraction indicator

composites=subtraction fodder

## 25A AMENDS

Makes changes=definition

before PM=AM [morning before

afternoon]

is finished=ends

## 1D MIME

Performer=definition

Me? I'm=anagram fodder

baffled=anagram indicator

## 2D ERIC

A man=definition

from=containment indicator

America=containment fodder

## 3D REC.

Pressed on camera=definition

regarding=re [in emails]

copyright=c [(C) symbol]

## 4D RAIL

Berate=definition

scandalous=anagram indicator

liar=anagram fodder

## 5D YEAR

Tidy earner=containment fodder

holding=containment indicator

for=linkword

twelve months=definition

## 9D GAGS

Jokes=definition

and=linkword

chokes=gags

## 11D ACT

Even=alternation indicator

mascot=alternation fodder

is=linkword

part of a play=definition

## 12D HERD

Drove=definition

the road=the rd=subtraction fodder

no [...] needed=subtraction indicator

tow-start=t=subtracted part

## 14D ANN

Without=subtraction indicator

measure=ounce=subtracted part

announce=subtraction fodder

a lady's name=definition

## 17D THOU

Grand=thou[sand]=definition

what "you" used to be=definition

## 18D EATS

Points=E,S [compass points]

around=placement indicator

at=at

food=definition

## 20D ANEW

Somehow=anagram indicator

wane=anagram fodder

all over again=definition

## 21D TO-DO

A list=definition

of=containment indicator

faint odours=containment fodder

## 23D SAT

Sedentary=definition

and=linkword

posed for a portrait=definition