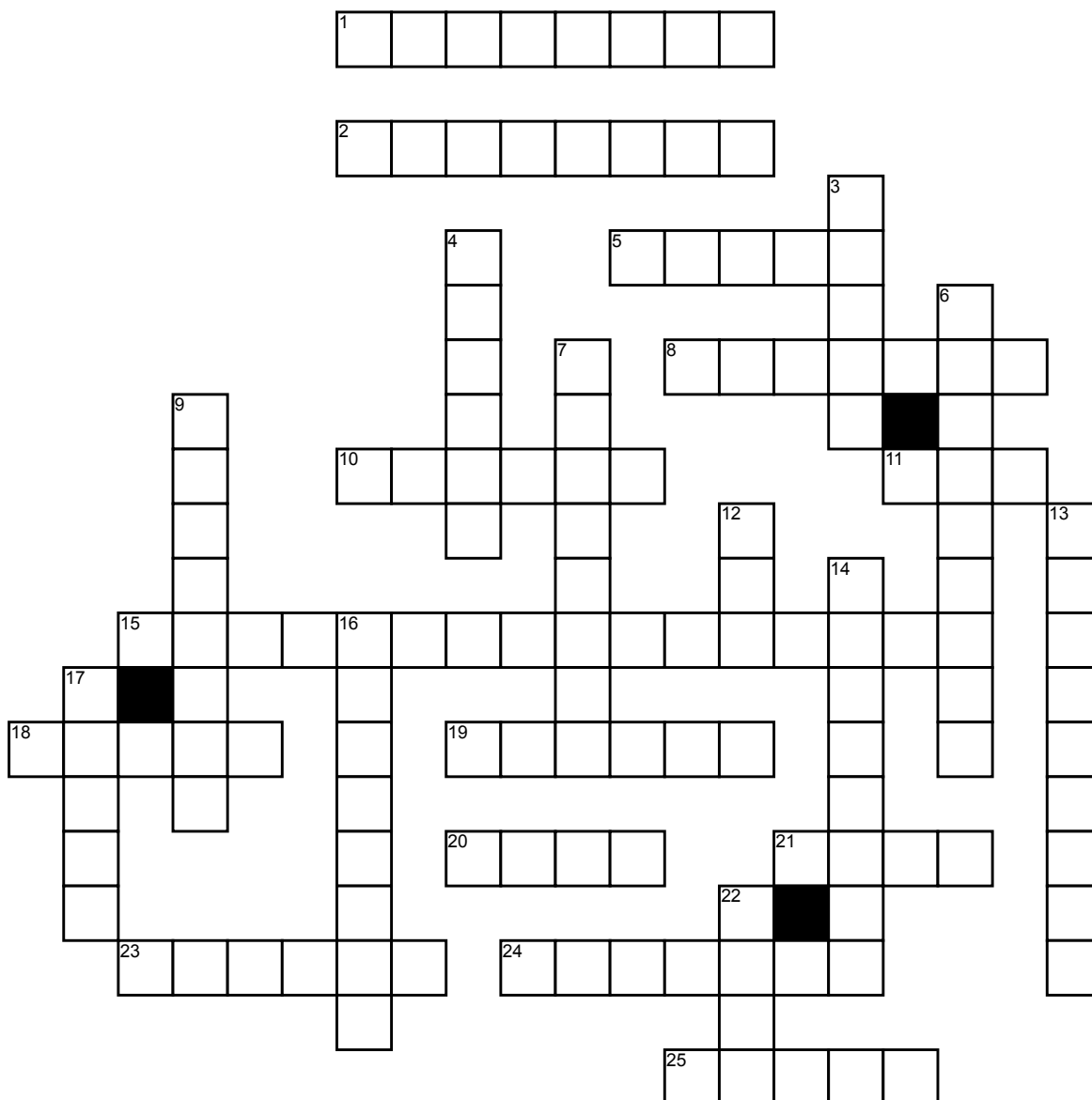


Death By Scrabble



Across

1. "We're playing Scrabble. That's how bad it is. I'm 42 years old, it's a blistering hot Sunday afternoon and all I can think of to do with my life is to play Scrabble."
2. "She gives me a suspicious look. She sits back down with her cup of tea, making a cup-ring on the table, as I play an 8-letter word: _____, using the A of READY. 64 points, including the 50-point bonus, which means I'm beating her now."
5. "Then it hits me. The perfect word. A powerful, dangerous, terrible word. I play _____ for 19 points."
8. "My wife plays _____, using a blank tile for the N. 18 points."
10. "If only I had a D, then I could play _____. That would be a sign. That would be permission."
11. "I play _____, using the L of EXPLODES. I sit back in my chair and close my eyes, waiting for the sensation of rising up from my chair. Waiting to fly."
15. "If she wasn't around, I'd be doing something interesting right now. I'd be climbing _____."
18. "The steam rising from her cup of tea makes me feel hotter. I try to make murderous words with the letters on my rack, but the best I can do is _____."

19. "I start chewing on my U. It's a bad habit, I know. All the letters are frayed. I play _____ for 22 points, mainly so I can keep chewing on my U."

20. "This is why I hate my wife. I play _____, with the Z doubled, and she gets a static shock off the air conditioning unit. I find this remarkably satisfying."

21. "My wife plays _____, with the N on a triple-letter, for 10 points."

23. "She plays _____, with the J on a double-letter score."

24. "All the letters are frayed. I play WARMER for 22 points, mainly so I can keep _____ on my U."

25. "She plays _____ on a double-word for 18 points, then goes to pour herself a cup of tea. No I do not want one."

Down

3. "My wife plays _____ for 34 points, just as the room starts to shake."

4. "I really, really hate her. She plays _____ on the triple-word for 21 points. The score is 153 to her, 155 to me."

6. "I'd be starring in the latest _____ blockbuster."

7. "She plays _____, using all her letters. 24 points plus a 50 point bonus. If it wasn't too hot to move I would strangle her right now"

9. "I spot a chance to use all my letters. _____, using the X of JINXED. 72 points. That'll show her."

12. "She plays _____, with the F on a double-letter, and gets up to fill the kettle and turn on the air conditioning."

13. "My wife sleeps all the time. She slept through an argument our next-door _____ had that resulted in a broken door, a smashed TV and a Teletubby Lala doll with all the stuffing coming out."

14. "I fall to the floor. My wife just sits there, _____."

16. "The rage gets to my fingertips and passes. My heart is beating. I'm sweating. I think my face actually _____. Then I sigh, deeply, and sit back into my chair."

17. "Maybe I should cheat again, and pick out the letters I need to spell _____ or SLAY."

22. "It's a hot day and I hate my _____."