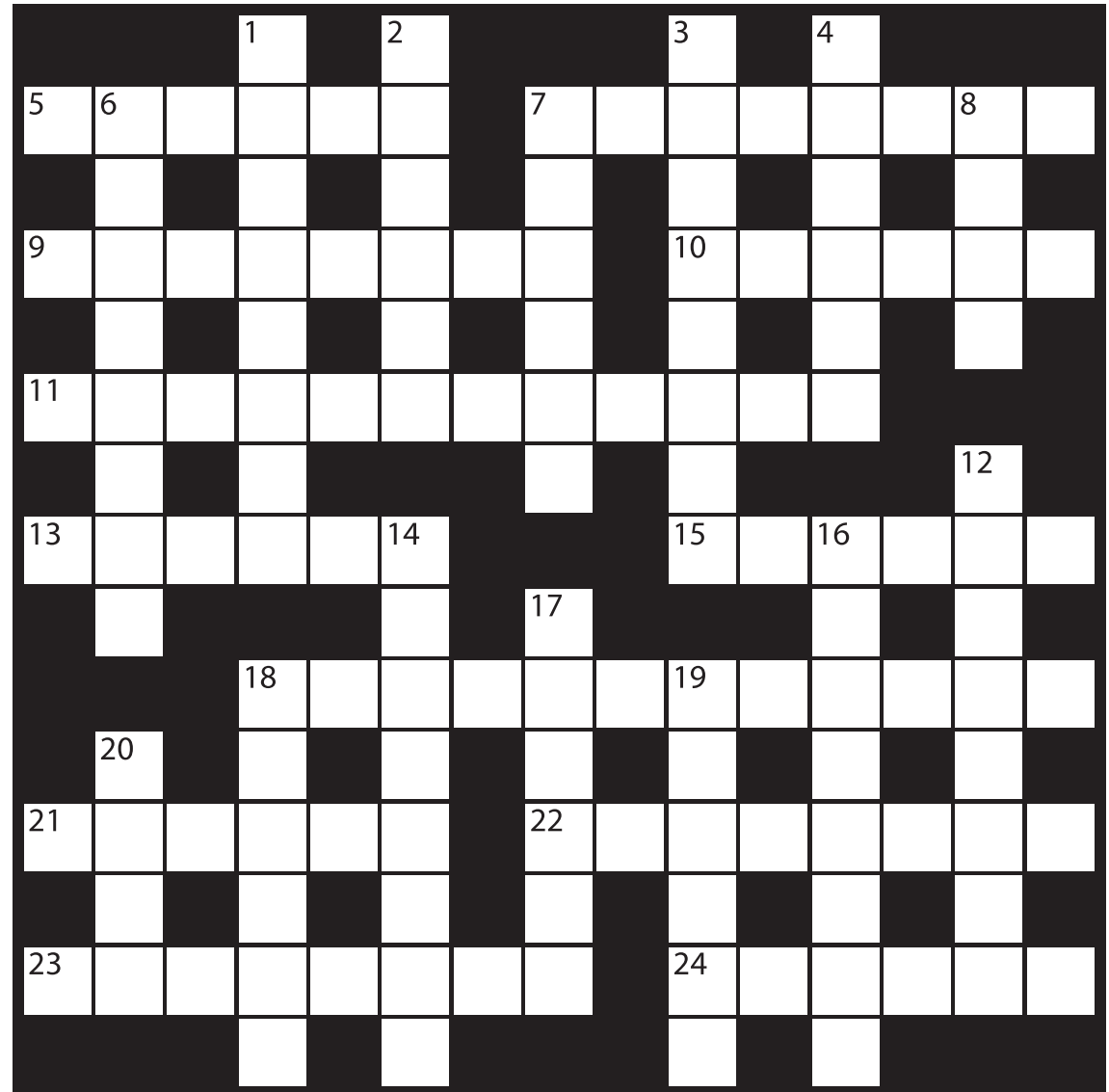


ACROSS

- 5 Small feline that man hurt (6)
- 7 Chance for group to seize power (8)
- 9 Stone arch in mostly dull area of drought (4,4)
- 10 Athlete's more fluid after ditching Boz (6)
- 11 Horrible taunt about king working (12)
- 13 Look in container on the counter for mineral (6)
- 15 Dislike being here without leader (6)
- 18 Confusing contender, act dense (12)
- 21 Vessels used in funeral in Erskine (6)
- 22 Intelligence agency holding ceremony with right standards (8)
- 23 Finished struggle with appraisal (8)
- 24 Animal's endless courage rattled (6)

DOWN

- 1 Rules preventing ET being in Oscars, perhaps (8)
- 2 Diversion is start of delay with alternative route (6)
- 3 Messenger has time inside — one at Her Majesty's pleasure? (8)
- 4 Clean edges of stove containing bad smell (6)
- 6 Pickles from church? Yes, prepared with nut (8)
- 7 Grand building father and Alec renovated (6)
- 8 Cook is heartless person in charge (4)
- 12 Lovely area for plant (8)
- 14 Maybe solitary day with Italian wine around (8)



- 16 Disturbed fish in sun going round top of pool... (6,2)
- 17 ...reportedly notice lower creature that swims (3,3)
- 18 Cold, king's vaults (6)
- 19 Tense crone is jerk (6)
- 20 Knife I've used regularly to make garlicky dish (4)