

Submission of entries

The prize draw is now done electronically based on a sequence number assigned to each correct entry, and there is therefore no longer any need to cut entries to a uniform size. However, room alongside the grid to write said sequence number and any other notes is useful. Regular solvers may omit their addresses as these will be remembered from previous entries.

For the grid, pencil (if applied reasonably firmly) is acceptable. Where highlighting/shading is required (and where the colour isn't significant), darker highlighting pens are preferred: yellow can be difficult to make out, especially on entries from the newspaper read in artificial light (other alternatives are pencil shading, different colouring, circling etc.).

Multiple entries

More than one entry may be included in the same envelope (with the relevant puzzle numbers written on the front), to arrive by the closing date of the first puzzle.

Late entries

Late entries (holidays etc) are included in the annual statistics as long as they are flagged in advance. Latitude is allowed in connection with postal delays, illnesses etc.

Prizes

If a solver would like one of the alternative prizes, the choice may be written (in hope) alongside the grid. Prizes are not ordered until the second Monday after the solution is published, to give winners time to make an alternative choice. Non-receipt of a prize within a reasonable time should be queried at prizes@listencrossword.com or with the marker.

Comments

Any puzzle comments included are passed to the setter(s) and editors. Shorter comments are transcribed onto a separate document, but on longer comments it is useful if name, address, email and any setting pseudonym are already included.

Stamps

Stamps from envelopes are sent to charity (currently the RNIB). Any loose used stamps (cut with a 1cm border where possible) included in envelopes will also be sent.

Email submission

It is likely that this will be introduced as an alternative entry method in the near future. An announcement will be made in The Times when it is available.

Thanks

And finally, thanks are due to solvers for their helpfulness in following the above guidelines and in dealing with any other issues that occur.

Neil Aspland 2025