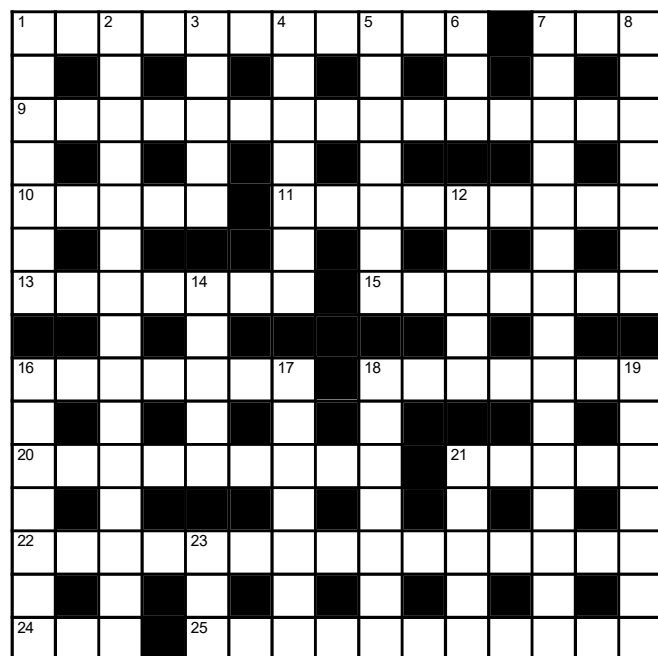


Created By: Mathrix

What 4 words (either by themselves or part of other solution words) make a French connection.

**Across**

- 1 Most tequila mixes are bland (11)
 7 Charge without a disapproving expression (3)
 9 Begins holding uncooked skins of blue ribier and yellowfin tuna heads, for some treats (10,5)
 10 Make it better at noon? (5)
 11 Explained how glass is produced (4,5)
 13 Topless wench twisted in a bind (7)
 15 Told to pour beer and watch (7)
 16 Grim old ingrate has a kind of edge (7)
 18 A way of capturing an evening? (5,2)
 20 Sensible cost of living in Arizona city? (9)
 21 Girl's spirit held down (5)
 22 A comedian tours around hosting big debut of a type of soda (6,9)

24 Swimmer feels content (3)

25 Possibly taper amount of smog, for instance (11)

Down

- 1 Manipulate weight over the years (7)
 2 Great balance and form - it's bigger than real life! (5,5,5)
 3 You and I in Germany, and single (5)
 4 Surgeon of a kind to call back after three in Italy (4,3)
 5 A support with some French grates (7)
 6 Child cast (3)
 7 Competition for two people or a deformed horse (5-6,4)
 8 Weakest relative has a bird of prey (7)
 12 Company restricted by soldier's dog (5)
 14 In Japan, I season for flavoring (5)
 16 Painter's partner is originally staying inside (7)
 17 Good soldier is also a looker! (7)
 18 More confused after the statement of fact (7)
 19 Flatten a dish of gold (7)
 21 A cereal nut (5)
 23 Official trumpet part (3)