

Your two biggest clues were at 25 -Across "Grid that has the same exact dimensions as a regular crossword puzzle" and 42-Across "One of several usually needed to succeed (which can be done by focusing on tile values, special squares, and the official online dictionary)". These should have gotten you thinking about how you could score the grid entries according to Scrabble rules. You needed to overlay the special squares from the Scrabble board onto the grid and then use the tile values for each letter in order to calculate word scores. Also, you could rule out any words longer than 7 letters (since you only have 7 letters at a time in Scrabble, this is also why the answer was 7 letters, which I thought was an excellent touch) as well as any multi-word phrases and proper nouns.

The title was a reminder that you were specifically looking for the 7 highest scoring (but legal Scrabble) words. Those words were (in no particular order): OOZY, JACK, KNOW, BLEW, XENON, EQUAL, and UGLY. The first letters of those words anagram (or shuffle, hence the meta prompt) to spell out JUKEBOX, which is indeed something that can be shuffled, a sevenletter word, and one of the highest scoring possible words in Scrabble (which is also recognizable to non-Scrabble players).

