

# How to Be Presentable (Expert): Solution

*By Alon Levy*

The two sets of clues are in alphabetical order, suggesting some scrambling is required. The set of numbers of letters on the left is one more than the set of numbers of letters on the right; the flavortext says “add or subtract, or maybe even add to subtract,” which should help clue that the answers on the left differ from those on the right by the addition of a single letter. Some of the easier answers readily pair off this way as well; for example, in testing, the DARK-ARK pair below was straightforward, helping show the pattern.

The answers work out as follows:

Amoral people (10): LIBERTINES	Biblical vessel (3): ARK
Bolide (6): METEOR	Bind (8): RESTRAIN
Chest (6): THORAX	Colonial city (6): MADRAS
Cruel (4): MEAN	Freedoms (9): LIBERTIES
Middle East school (7): MADRASA	Insignia token (5): BADGE
Mustelid (6): BADGER	Length measure (5): METER
Obtain (4): FIND	Male (3): MAN
Self-control (9): RESTRAINT	Son of Ares (5): THRAX
Unlit (4): DARK	Underwater limb (3): FIN

In each left-right pair, the extra letter is in a unique position in a word. Here they are, ordered by position in the longer word:

DARK-ARK	D
MEAN-MAN	E
THORAX-THRAX	O
FIND-FIN	D
METEOR-METER	O
BADGER-BADGE	R

MADRASA-MADRAS	A
LIBERTINES-LIBERTIES	N
RESTRAINT-RESTRAIN	T

Thus, what is needed to be more presentable is **DEODORANT**.