

How to Be Presentable (Casual): Solution

By Alon Levy

The two sets of clues are paired, with the clue on the left including a number of letters one more than the clue 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:

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

Reading down in order of the additional letter, we get **DEODORANT**.

(You may notice that, in addition to the above, the added letters also have unique positions in their respective words: D is the first letter of DARK, E is the second letter of MEAN, O is the third letter of THORAX, and so on. The expert version of the puzzle relies on that as a second solution step.)