

Obsolete Satellite

by Jay Lorch

Answer: MICKELSON

Step 1. Each entry is two clues with their words mixed together and alphabetized. Furthermore, the answers to the two clues are words that differ in exactly one letter, never the first letter. The puzzle's title is confirmation of this approach, since Obsolete and Satellite are clues for MOOT and MOON. Separating out the clues and answering them yields:

Clue 1	Answer 1	Clue 2	Answer 2
express unwillingness to do something	REFUSE	disqualify oneself from judging	RECUSE
free from evil spirits	EXORCISE	strengthen by repetitive movement	EXERCISE
beginning of a journey	OUTSET	store unloading surplus	OUTLET
bring down the house	RAZE	not at all well-done	RARE
it's certain like taxes	DEATH	mark twain signified it	DEPTH
causing less difficulty	EASIER	good time to dye	EASTER
advice to type-A person	RELAX	race with four legs	RELAY
honor suitable for hanging	PLAQUE	locusts blood or boils	PLAGUE
keep from happening	AVERT	having heightened senses	ALERT
unfairness due to lopsided treatment	INEQUITY	a den of it contains sinners	INIQUITY
typical homework assignment	REPORT	posh vacation spot	RESORT
integrated software package	SUITE	treat with malice	SPITE
haul on the highway	TRUCK	white flags indicate one	TRUCE
scenic spot from above	OVERLOOK	leave in oven too long	OVERCOOK
traveled by winged craft	FLEW	it makes boxers itchy	FLEA
in an obvious manner	OVERTLY	pass above by airplane	OVERFLY
microwave setting for leftovers	REHEAT	move to first class	RESEAT
T1s transmit 1.544 each second	MEGABIT	extremely successful motion picture	MEGAHIT
answer a job ad	APPLY	proverbial daily preventative	APPLE
train making all stops	LOCAL	toeing the party line	LOYAL
place to do time	PRISON	warning label word	POISON
restaurant with orange roof familiarly	HOJO	rider of the rails	HOBO
trouble spots for teens	ACNE	supply company in cartoons	ACME

riding on two wheels	BIKING	skimpy two-piece suit	BIKINI
stand the test of time	ENDURE	make absolutely certain	ENSURE
in good physical condition	TRIM	the Stooges for example	TRIO

Step 2. Each pair of words has a common first letter. Read these letters in order to reveal **REORDER PAIRS TO FORM ALPHABET.**

Step 3. Realize that the pairs referred to are the pairs of letters that differ between corresponding words. So, for instance, for REFUSE/RECUSE, the pair is FC. Also, notice that there are exactly 26 such pairs, enough for each to represent a single letter of the alphabet.

There is a single way to reorder the pairs so that the first contains an A, the second contains a B, etc., all the way to Z. Reordering the pairs this way produces:

AP, BH, CY, DS, EI, FC, GI, HS, IT, JB, KE, LC, MO, NM, OE, PS, QG, RO, SL, TF, UP, VL, WA, XY, YE, ZR.

Step 4. Read the other letters in the pairs in order. For instance, start with the P that's paired with the A, then use the H that's paired with the B, etc. This produces **PHYSICIST BECOMES GOLF PLAYER.**

Step 5. The blanks at the bottom of the puzzle indicate the final answer will be 9 letters long. Since the puzzle is about finding words that differ in only one letter, find a 9-letter physicist that can be changed into a golf player by changing one letter. (Albert) Michelson, of the famed Michelson-Morley experiment, can be changed into (Phil) Mickelson, a well-known professional golf player.

It may be unclear which of Michelson or Mickelson is the answer. The "becomes" phrasing implies that it's the latter. Thus, the answer is **MICKELSON**, but we'll accept and correct a submission of MICHELSON.