

# Spelling Words in Action

What do you get when you combine a bicycle with a motorcycle?

## BMX

To some bikers, bicycles are for flying. They call their sport BMX. The letters stand for Bicycle Motocross. A motocross is a race for motorcycles, but BMX racers **substitute** bicycles for motorcycles.

A BMX race takes place on a dirt track. Riders pedal around steep, banked turns. They make double and **triple** jumps. A good jump can send a rider into **midair**! It's important for racers to get a good start out of the gate. It's easy for them to crash when they are in the **middle** of a crowd.

Besides racing, BMX riders do freestyle tricks. "Dirt riders" focus on jumping over obstacles in dirt trails. "Flatlanders" stay on the ground. Their tricks include different ways of riding the bike without touching the pedals. "Street riders" are **subject** to the most danger. They jump gaps in roads and sidewalks. With so many variations in the sport, interest in BMX is not likely to **subside** anytime soon.

BMX riders have to **submit** to hard training and perhaps a few bumps and bruises. While bicycle racers usually have strong leg muscles, BMX riders also need strong **biceps** to pull the bike into the air. The sport can be dangerous, so riders reduce risks by wearing helmets and checking that their bikes are in safe condition. If you think you're interested in BMX riding, watch a BMX race or **subscribe** to a magazine to learn more first.



Look at the **boldfaced** words in the selection. How many different prefixes can you find? How do the base words or roots change meaning when the prefixes are added?

## TIP

The prefix sub usually means under, below, or not quite, as in subside.

The prefix mid means in the middle part, as in midday.

The prefix bi usually means two, as in bisect.

The prefix tri usually means three, as in tripod.

## LIST WORDS

1. trio
2. subject
3. midwinter
4. submit
5. midnight
6. triangle
7. midstream
8. triple
9. middle
10. bicycles
11. bisect
12. subscribe
13. midair
14. substitute
15. subtract
16. biceps
17. tripod
18. midday
19. subdue
20. subside

# Spelling Practice

## Words with sub, mid, bi, and tri

Write each **list word** under the correct heading.

### words with the prefix **tri**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### words with the prefix **mid**

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

### words with the prefix **bi**

11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_

### words with the prefix **sub**

14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_

## Definitions

Write a list word to match each definition clue.

1. take away \_\_\_\_\_
2. three times as much \_\_\_\_\_
3. three-sided figure \_\_\_\_\_
4. arm muscles \_\_\_\_\_
5. 12:00 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_
6. middle of the winter \_\_\_\_\_
7. three people who play music \_\_\_\_\_
8. 12:00 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_
9. a course of study \_\_\_\_\_
10. to conquer or overcome \_\_\_\_\_
11. the center \_\_\_\_\_
12. person or thing that replaces another \_\_\_\_\_



## Riddles

Answer each pair of riddles with a **list word**. Write the word on the line.

1. My prefix usually means three. Peas grow in my base word. \_\_\_\_\_
2. You could order my prefix in a deli, but it also means not quite. My root is something that a triangle has three of. \_\_\_\_\_
3. My prefix can mean under. My root rhymes with tribe. \_\_\_\_\_
4. My prefix usually means two. My root means wheels. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My prefix means two. My root can be found in the word section. \_\_\_\_\_
6. My prefix can mean below. My root sounds like another name for a baseball glove.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. My prefix means in the middle part. My base word means a small river. \_\_\_\_\_
8. My prefix rhymes with bid. You breathe my base word. \_\_\_\_\_



# Spelling and Writing

## Proofreading

This article has twelve mistakes. Use the proofreading marks to fix the mistakes. Then, write the misspelled **list words** correctly on the lines.

In 1896 bicickles filled Americas streets. People were quick to subskrib to the new craze and subbstitue horses with two-wheeled vehicles. Young people enjoyed midaye rides in the country while others rode to work. Orville and Wilbur Wrights bicycle shop was busy. However new ideas would subdoo the craze. The automobile would become the subjek of great interest, and the Wright brothers would soon be flying in middair in an airplane.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Proofreading Marks

- spelling mistake
- ↙ add apostrophe
- ↗ add something

