Lesson 17

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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Spelling Practice

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. *two*
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*

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. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 subskribe 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.

Proofreading Marks

- spelling mistake
- add apostrophe
- add something

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS