I'VE BROKEN MY WORD

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This is a special kind of search-a-word puzzle. It may be new. Words are built from frags instead of single letters. Each word consists of two but mainly three frags in a line. Read in any orthogonal or diagonal direction; for example, VERY DELI is read as DELIVERY. Note USE TEN HYPO (HYPOTENUSE) on a diagonal in the upper left.

All of the three-frag words used in the above are in the following list. To start this game, I tested my 10-, 11- and 12-letter word lists against short lists of common 3- and 4-letter words. My computer found about 2300 long words that split into three short ones. Many splits, for example SIDE.STEP.PING, were trivial. I hand picked the following; most were chosen because neither of the two 2-frag combos make a word. The above was built from the chosen 3-frag words as far as possible, then filled in with 2-frag words. SEEDKIN was gratuitous.
After developing the above, I recognized the existence of what I call T-frags. When we break a word into three parts, we can call the parts B-frags, M-frags and E-frags, depending on whether they occur in the beginning, middle or end of the word. A T-frag (T for triple) is one that can serve as either a B-frag, M-frag or E-frag. Since T-frags are obviously valuable for this kind of puzzle, I widened my search limits to include 13-letter words and 2-letter word frags and went through my data a second time. The following were identified as T-frags.

ace act ads after ale am amp an and ani ant antic arch are art at aver ball base be bed bit boy break bug burn but by cant carp cast cent chin coat cord cost craft cut dam den dent ding do dress en end ere face fat fend flex flow foot fore form gal gene germ gig gin gram hand head here here his hip house human in is ken key king land leaf lee lent lion lo ma man mar men metal mete mid my net nit nor of other out pal part past pen per perm pert pet phone pi pin poly pot pot press proof pus quest race ram ran rat rebel red rest right ring room rough row sand ship side sin slip some son sonic spin stead stern stone sty tail tan tar tee ten tent tens test the then therr thing thy ti tile tin tip to tone tool top tour tract train try under vice ward way west will woman work

Here are sample uses of all the 5-letter T-frags. For a few of the T-frags, I found only the one set of words given here. As yet, I have not built any puzzles from this larger set of data.

the.re.AFTER.bra.in mid.den.STEAD
poco.cur.ANTIC.lock.wise gig.ANTIC.ally
he.art.BREAK.he.ads post.BREAK.fast
bra.in.CRAFT.in.ess air.CRAFT.man
mi.sad.DRESS.in.ess ad.DRESS.ees
boar.ding HOUSE.rid.den ware.HOUSE.man
pro.to.HUMAN.is.tic trans.HUMAN.ate
pro.to.METAL.bum.in mono.METAL.list
for.em.OTHER.whit.her end.OTHER.my
lit.hoPHONE.tic.ally hyperPHONE.sis
mi.sex.PRESS.man.ship ex.PRESS.ion
hum.or.PROOF.re.ad lie.PROOF.lier
re.con.QUEST.ho.use re.QUEST.ion
pro.to.REBEL.pro.of semi.REBEL.lion
tit.he.RIGHT.hear.ted ref.RIGHT.en
el.lip.SONIC.at.ion par.SONIC.ally

Solving an

Word Ways (higher, DO: RAM) may be a crossword (grid) you enter automatically therein. To

Similarly, magazine. I have inherited

* all anagram
* all words
* comb chub
* all words
** all words
* all words
** all words

More complex in sequence

The dictionary, including data for the crossword, serious logic, boldface entries available from

Birmingham
Solving and Constructing Crossword Puzzles

Word Ways readers who own IBM-compatible computers (8086 or higher, DOS 3.3+, 1.6 megabytes on a hard disk, 512 kilobytes of RAM) may be interested in Wordly Wise, a program to aid either the crossword constructor or solver. The constructor can readily create a grid by specifying a pattern of black and white squares, and enter automatically (in either "pencil" or "ink") letters or words therein. To assist in clue-writing a cryptic tutorial is provided. Similarly, the solver can reproduce a grid given in a newspaper or magazine. The program provides various tools for the latter that have inherent use for the logologist:

- all anagrams of a set of letters or any subset (CARE: acre race are car ear era rec rae ace ac ar ea ra)
- all words containing letters in specified positions (C.B: Cobb comb chub club crab crib curb)
- all words containing letters in specified order (RA,K,D: raked ranked ranked ranked racketed racketeered)
- all words inside words (USHER: us she he her er)
- all words that sound at least vaguely like a target word

More complex screenings can be devised by using two or more tools in sequence.

The dictionary on which this is based contains 160,000 words, including derived forms such as plurals or past tenses—adequate for the crossword constructor or solver, but a bit confining to the serious logologist who is accustomed to working with all the boldface entries in an unabridged dictionary. Wordly Wise is available for $59.95 postpaid from Sapphire, PO Box 4848, Rednal, Birmingham B459SZ, England.