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.

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.

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ace act ads after ale am amp an and ani ant antic arch are art as at aver ball base be bed bit bon break bug burn but by cant carp cast cent chin coat cord cost craft cut dam den dent ding do don dress en end ere face fat fend flex flow foot fore form gal gene germ gig gin gram hand head her here hic hid 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 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 them thing thy ti tile tin tip to tone tool top tour tract train try under vice ward way west will woman work

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the.re.AFTER.bra.in. mid.AFTER.noon 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 litt ho.PHONE.tic.ally. hyper.PHONE.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
mid.den.STEAD.in.ess, over.STEAD.fast
mid.we.STERN.fore.most, con.STERN.ate
bra.in.STONE.ma.son, brim.STONE.wort
poi.kilo.THERM.anti.dote, fur.THERM.ore
dog.too.THING.lik.en, ess, far.THING.ale
sub.con.TRACT.el.ate, ex.TRACT.ion
anti.eyes.TRAIN.10.ads, cons.TRAIN.able
the.re.UNDER.is.sue, re.UNDER.cut
pan.try.WOMAN.pro.of, work.WOMAN.like

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 racked 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.