

TRIKE (SOLUTION)

by Ong Kah Kien

The first step is to solve the 20 given clues, which each have an accompanying image of a wheel. The 20 clue answers can be thematically rotated (read clockwise or counter-clockwise) into different words, and paired to form two of the three parts of sets of trios (phrases or things), hinted at by Trikes having three wheels. The clue answers and words forms by the rotated answers are summarized in the table below:

Clues	Clue answers	Rotated clue answers
Join the army	ENLIST	LISTEN
Fez material	FELT	LEFT
Measure round a body	GIRTH	RIGHT
Artists who outline and embellish over a penciller's drawings for a comic	INKERS	SINKER
ABBA song, Mamma ____	MIA	AIM
Cairo's waterway	NILE	LINE
Seaweed around sushi	NORI	IRON
Used in the Hebrew bible to refer to a transgression or rebellion against God	PESHA	SHAPE
Widely prevalent	RIFE	FIRE
Test to compare air conduction and bone conduction of sound	RINNE	INNER
Bus driver's path	ROUTE	OUTER
Contents of an hourglass	SAND	ANDS
Area sheltered from the sun	SHADE	HADES
Wife of Thor in Norse mythology	SIF	IFS
Canal that divides Africa and Asia	SUEZ	ZEUS
Boston ____ Party	TEA	EAT
Firms up one's muscles	TONES	STONE
Traditional wooden spinning toys	TOPS	STOP
Winning all five tricks in one deal in Écarté	VOLE	LOVE
Motion about the vertical axis of an aircraft	YAW	WAY

The trios are clued in by the given emojis at the end of the puzzle, each having an accompanying image of the missing third wheel with a number index. The table below summarizes the trios with the paired rotated clue answers and missing element in red, indices, and the extracted letters using the indices in the given order.

Paired clue answers	Indices	Extracted letters
INNER, MIDDLE, OUTER	5	L
ZEUS, POSEIDON, HADES	2	O
LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER	1	C
HOOK, LINE, SINKER	4	K
IFS, ANDS, BUTS	1	B
EAT, PRAY, LOVE	3	A
STONE, BRONZE, IRON	2	R
WAY, SHAPE, FORM	3	R
READY, AIM, FIRE	2	E
STOP, LOOK, LISTEN	1	L

Indexing into the missing element of the corresponding trio extracts letters which can be read in the given order to spell the answer clue phrase – LOCK, BARREL. These are again two elements of a familiar trio, with the missing element being the answer to this puzzle – **STOCK**.

Constructor's notes:

The characteristics of the Trikes are their three wheels, so I used trios as the thematic idea for this puzzle, which also matches well with the answer being part of a well-known trio. But the theme would be too obvious if the elements in the trios were clued directly, so these were rotated into different words which were clued instead to preserve the aha. The challenge was just finding suitable trios that had at least two elements with viable rotated words, while the remaining one contained a required extraction letter.