What Is Force?

A **force** is a push or a pull. When you push on your pencil, you are **exerting** a force. When you pull a carrot out of the ground, you are exerting a force.

Forces act on you every day from all directions. You exert forces on many things every day. You must exert force to ride a bicycle. Your foot exerts a pushing force on the pedal. When the pedals move, they pull on the chain. The chain makes the back wheel turn. The wheel pushes on the ground, and you and the bicycle move forward.

When you use the bike's brakes, the bike stops because of another force called **friction**. Why does the bike stay on the ground instead of floating off into the sky

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Before You Read

Force

What Is Force?

1 2

Drag the correct word to its definition below.

friction

gravity

a) The force of the Earth pulling things toward its surface.

pull

b) A force that moves things closer.

force

c) A push or a pull.

push

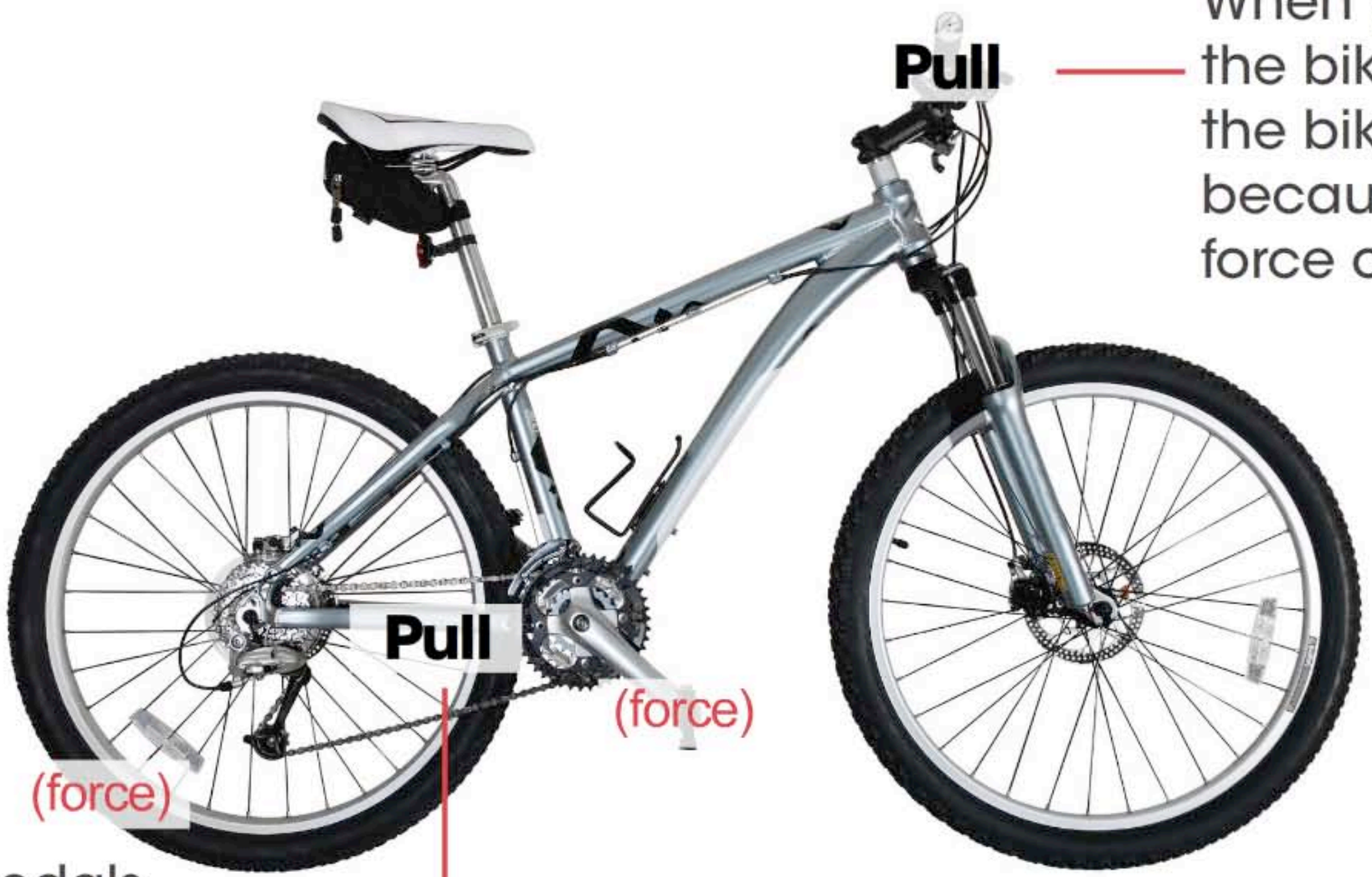
d) The force that moves things farther apart.

e) The force between things sliding past each other.

Reset

Forces Used to Ride a Bike

Push



When you pull on the bike's brakes, the bike stops because of another force called friction.

When the pedals move, they pull on the chain.

Reset