



Vocabulary

Horse riding

WORD DEFINITION

B

back	The part of the horse's body corresponding to the thoracic and lumbar spine area.
barrel	The part of the horse's body corresponding to the area behind the girth area to the flank.
bell boot	A protective boot designed to protect the hooves and lower legs of the horse.
belly	The abdomen of an animal.
billets	The straps that connect the girth to the saddle, on English saddles.
bit	A small piece of horse tack that is held in a horse's mouth by means of a bridle and reins.
blanket	A large, rectangular piece of soft fabric, often with bound edges, used as a covering for a horse, a dog etc.
blacksmith	A person who trims, repairs and shoes horses' hooves.
blinkers	A small pair of leather panels attached to the horse's bridle, designed to prevent the horse from looking sideways.
body brush	A small brush used on the horse's body to increase the shine of the coat.
boot	Rider's footwear with a heel and reaching to below the knee.
breeches	Knee-length trousers.
breast	The part of the horse's body that is located behind the forelimbs.
bridle	Part of the harness of a horse, made up of a leather band around the head, bit, and reins that allows the rider to control the horse.
broodmare	A mare used specifically for breeding.
browband	A piece of the bridle that goes above a horse's eyes and under their ears.

C

cannon bone	The bone between the knee and the fetlock joint.
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canter	A three-beat gait, the next one up from the trot.
cheekpiece	The part of the bridle attached to the crownpiece that goes down and is connected to the bit.
chin	The part of the horse's head behind the lower lip.
colt	A male horse under the age of four.
coronet	The ring of tissue just above the hoof.
crest	The top portion of the horse's neck, generally more pronounced in studs.
croup	The back of the horse's loin.
crown piece	Part of the bridle that goes over the horse's head just behind the animal's ears.

D

dam	Name given to the father of a horse.
dock	The point of the horse's body where the rump and the tail connect.

E

ear	The external structure of the inner ear.
elbow	The upper joint of the front leg where the belly of the horse meets the leg.
ergot	A little callosity on the back of the fetlock.
eye	The organ of sight.

F

farrier	A person who makes and fits metal plates for horses' feet.
fetlock	The part of a horse's leg at the back, just above the foot, where longer hair grows.
filly	A young female horse that is under the age of four.
flap	A pair of large flaps which project downwards from the side of a saddle seat, and against which the rider's legs press. A small flap covering the stirrup-bars on either side of the saddle seat.
flash noseband	Part of the bridle used to keep the horse's mouth closed.
foal	A young horse less than one year old whatever its sex.
forearm	Part of the front leg between the knee and elbow.
forehead	The flat part of the face, above the eyes.

G

- gait** A particular way of walking.
- gaiters** Clothing that protects the leg from the knee to the ankle.
- gallop** The fastest form of a horse's movement.
- gallop, to** Ride a horse at full speed.
- gaskin** The muscle of the rear leg, just above the hock.
- gelding** A male horse that has been gelded.
- girth** The strap that goes around the middle of a horse to keep the saddle in place.
- gloves** Piece of clothing to protect the rider's hands when holding the reins.

H

- halter** A piece of rope or a leather strap that is tied around an animal's head so that it can be led by someone or tied to something.
- headpiece** The main strap that holds the remaining parts of the bridle in place. It goes over the horse's head just behind the animal's ears, at the poll.
- helmet** A strong, hard hat that covers and protects the rider's head.
- hock** The middle joint in a horse's back leg.
- hoof** The hard part on the bottom of the horse's feet.
- horse breeder** A person who breeds horses.

J

- jaw** The lower part of the horse's face that moves when it opens its mouth.

K

- knee** The joint in the horse's front legs, above the cannon bone.

L

- lead rope** A rope that can fasten to a halter and is used to lead the horse.
- loin** Part of the horse's body just behind the saddle.

M

- mane** The long, thick hair that grows along the top of a horse's neck.

- mare** An adult female horse that is four years old or more.
- mouth** The opening through which a person or animal takes in food.
- muzzle** The mouth, nostrils and chin of the horse's face.

N

- neck** The part of the horse's body connecting the head to the trunk.
- noseband** A part of the bridle that wraps around the nose of the horse and fastens underneath.
- nostril** Each of the two holes in the horse's nose.

P

- panel** The weight-bearing surface of the saddle that runs along either side of the gullet.
- pastern** The sloping part of a horse's foot between the fetlock and the hoof.
- pommel** The upward curving or projecting part of a saddle in front of the rider.

R

- rein** A long, narrow strap used in pairs attached to a horse's bit.
- rib** Each elongated bone forming the rib cage of the horse.
- riding breeches** Trousers that do not cover the whole of the leg.

S

- saddle** A leather seat put on a horse.
- saddle bag** Each one of the bags that are placed on a horse's back.
- saddle blanket** Fabrics placed under the saddle, generally used to absorb the horse's sweat.
- saddle pad** A piece of soft material under the saddle to protect the horse's back.
- shoe** A U-shaped piece of steel, aluminium, or plastic that is attached to the bottom of a horse's hoof to protect it.
- shoulder** Part of the horse's body that runs from the withers to the joint at the front of the chest.
- sire** Name given to the father of a horse.
- stable** A building with stalls where horses, cattle etc., are kept and fed.

- stallion** An adult male horse that is used for breeding.
- stirrup** One of a pair of pieces of metal shaped like the letter D that hang from the side of a horse's saddle, used for resting your foot when you are riding.
- stud** A stallion used specifically for breeding.
- sweat** The salty liquid that passes through the skin.

T

- tack** The equipment used for riding a horse, including saddle, saddle pad, bridle and girth.
- tail** A part of the horse's body, which grows from the dock.
- tendon** A cord or band of dense, tough, white, fibre-like tissue serving to connect a muscle with a bone or part.
- thigh** Part of the hind limb.
- throat** The front of the neck below the chin and above the collarbones.
- throat band** The same piece of leather as the crownpiece that goes under the throat from one side of the neck to the other.
- throatlatch** The same piece of leather as the crownpiece that goes under the throat from one side of the neck to the other.
- trot** A two-beat gait that is faster than walk gait.

V

- vet** Abbreviation of 'veterinarian'.
- veterinarian** A person whose work is the medical treatment of animals.

W

- waistcoat** Sleeveless clothing, covering the rider's torso.
- walk** The slowest gait of a horse.
- whip** Flexible rod for hitting.
- withers** The highest point of the horse's thoracic vertebrae, just at the base of the rear part of the neck.