

# Horse Vocabulary

By Debbie Miller, Trainer, Instructor

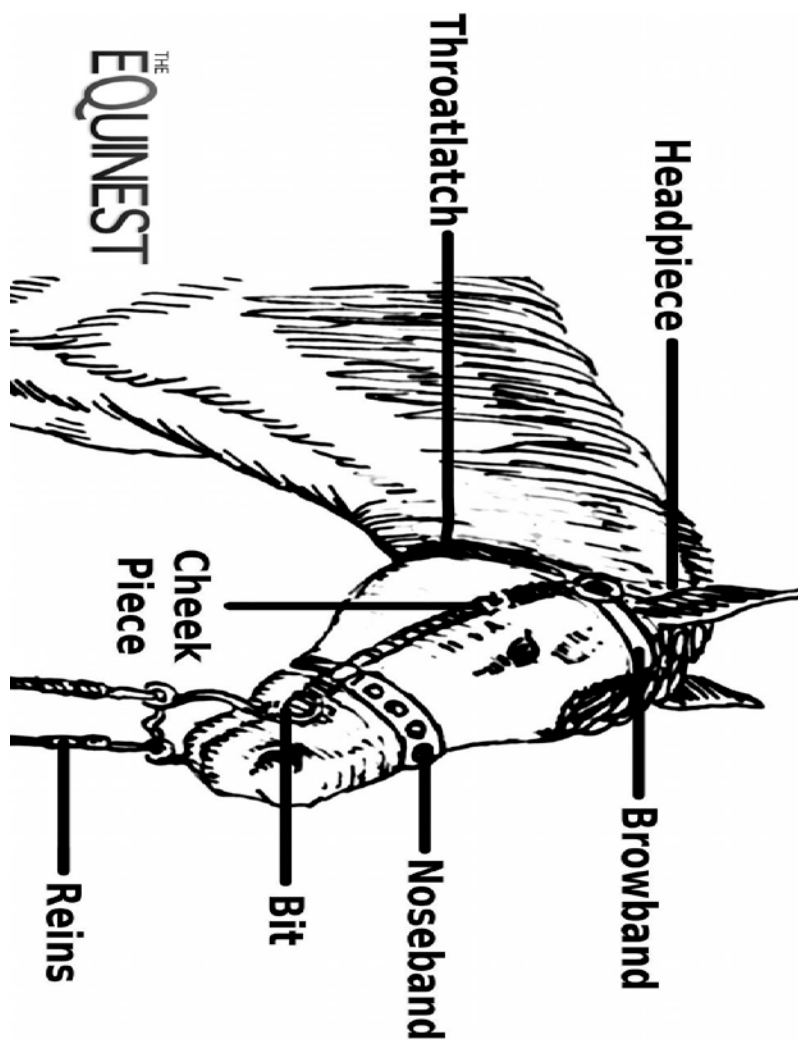
1. Lunge Line  
Usually made of cotton, canvas or nylon about 25 feet long with a chain at one end to attach to the horse's halter or bridle. It is used to work your horse in a circle at all gaits without the aid of an enclosure or fence.
2. Lunge Whip  
About 7 feet tall with a long lash – has a popper at the end. Take some practice to get good with a lunge whip. Use on rump and hind legs of horse.
3. Free Lunging  
When you turn your horse out in a round pen and use either a lunge whip or lead rope to ask him to move around you at various gaits.
4. Halter  
The halter allows you to lead and tie up your horse safely. It should fit correctly, not too tight or too loose. (Most of mine are blue.)
5. Lead Rope  
Usually 6-8 feet long lead of cotton or nylon which is used to lead and tie up your horse safely. Always tie with about two feet of lead rope between the post and your horse head. If it is too long they could step over the lead rope and get rope burns under their legs.
6. Neck Strap  
This is added around the neck of your horse to aid in standing up in the saddle. By pulling against the neck strap, you can push your heels down in your stirrups.
7. Stirrups  
A frame or ring that holds the foot of a rider, attached to the saddle by a strap.

## 8. English Bridle

We mostly ride English/Hunter Seat so most of our bridles are complete with noseband or cavesson.

Names of the bridle parts are:

- Crown Piece
- Browband
- Cheek Pieces
- Throat Latch
- Cavesson (noseband)
- Lace Reins
- Snaffle Bit (There are many kinds)

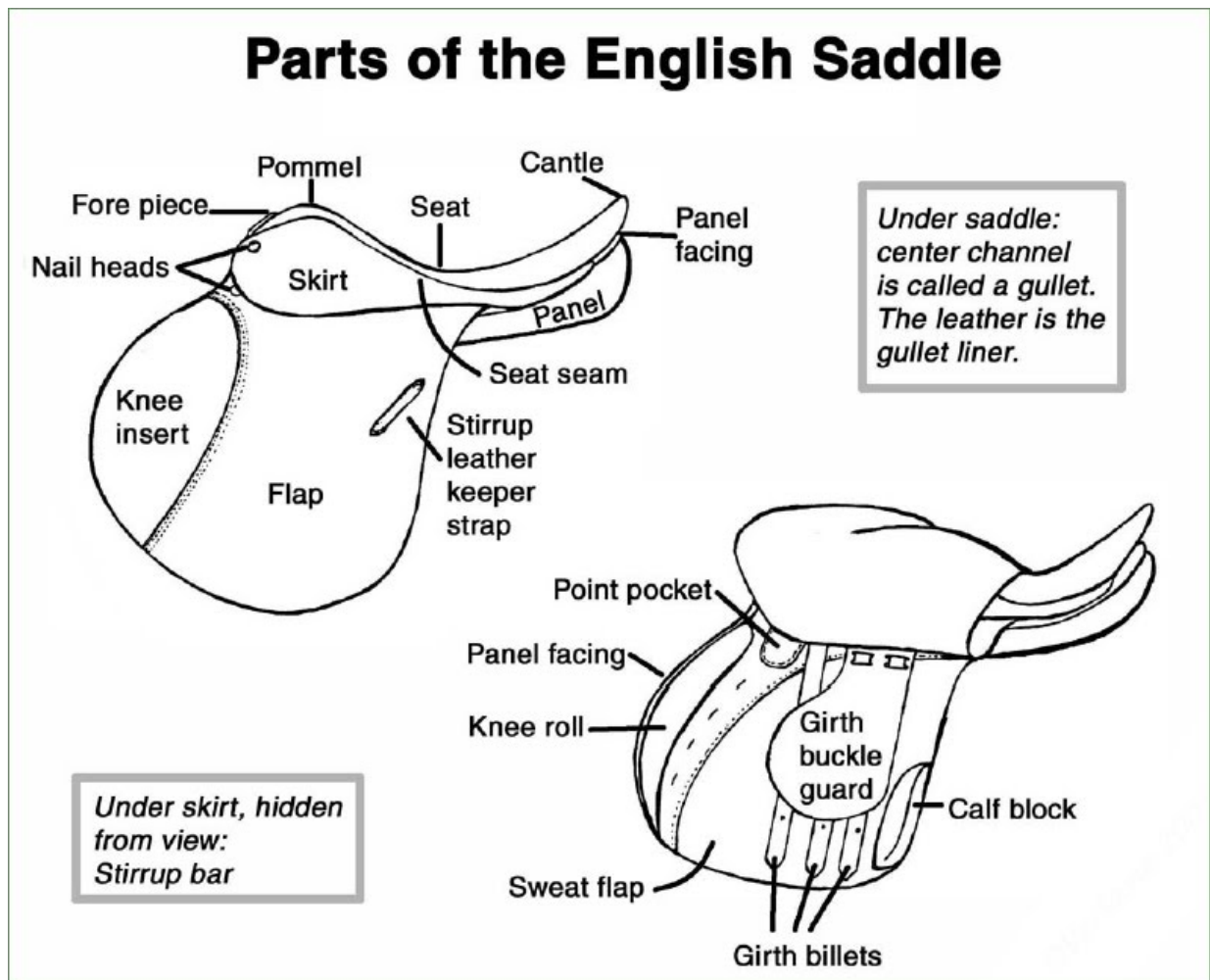


## 9. English Saddle

These saddles are very comfortable, about 30 lbs. – used for flat riding and jumping.

Parts of the saddle are:

- Pommel
- Gullet
- Seat
- Cantle
- Jockey
- Stirrup
- Leather
- Stirrup Iron
- Girth
- Fender - Skirt
- Billets



Sometimes we use a Running Martingale or Draw Reins to aid in a headset to keep the saddle from sliding back too far.

10. Bits (I have about 50 to see and learn from.)  
Several examples are; Full-Cheek, Snaffle, Round Ring Snaffle, D-ring Snaffle, Twisted Wire Snaffle, Pelham, Western Training Snaffle, and rubber Snaffle.
11. Dandy Brush  
It is about 9 inches long with a wooden back that you grasp and has natural fiber bristles. Use in a flicking motion to remove dirt, etc. from your horse's coat/hair.com
12. Rubber Curry  
Great for using in a circular motion to loosen dirt, mud, and shedding hair. It makes a big dent in grooming.
13. Hoof Pick  
These come in many styles and sizes. They must be tough and sharp enough to remove manure, rocks, and mud from the horse's hooves. Use before and after you ride.
14. Metal Curry Comb  
This looks like a metal blade within a circle with a handle. It is not to be used on the legs or head of your horse. It is great for removing mud or excess water on a horse's coat.
15. Pulling Comb  
This is a small metal comb about 4 inches long and 1 inch wide. Grab a few hairs of the mane, back comb it then wrap the long hairs around the comb and pull quickly. The mane will thin out and shorten to your desired length.
16. Mounting Box  
This can be built of metal, wood, or plastic. It is a nice tool for all riders. You should place your mounting box next to the fence so your horse does not side step away as you mount or dismount.
17. Spurs  
The small English spurs are worn on the heel of the boot and are easy to use. They are only as dangerous as the person wearing and using them.
18. Whip  
2-3 foot long flexible rod with a thing at the end (One good hit is much better than ten little pecks.). It is to be used by your calf and heel like a leg extension. The riding crop is shorter, 18"-2' long, with a handle; the bat is a short rod, 6"-1' long.
19. Farrier  
A trained professional horse person that can use a forge and build any kind of shoe needed. Your farrier should be your best friend.

#### 20. Veterinarian

This is your horse's personal doctor. Again, ask, learn, and seek for a great vet. Also, find a 24 hour emergency vet or hospital. Go there and then if you ever have to take a horse there, you will know where to go.

#### 21. Feed

Water, alfalfa, pellets, and different types of grain. Learn what you need – each horse is different.

#### 22. Round Pen

A small pen is 50 feet in diameter and is probably the most important tool in your life as a horseman. Footing is important... not too deep, but not too hard. All training begins and ends in the round pen. I have always said, "If I have a round pen, I can make a living."

#### 23. Tack Room

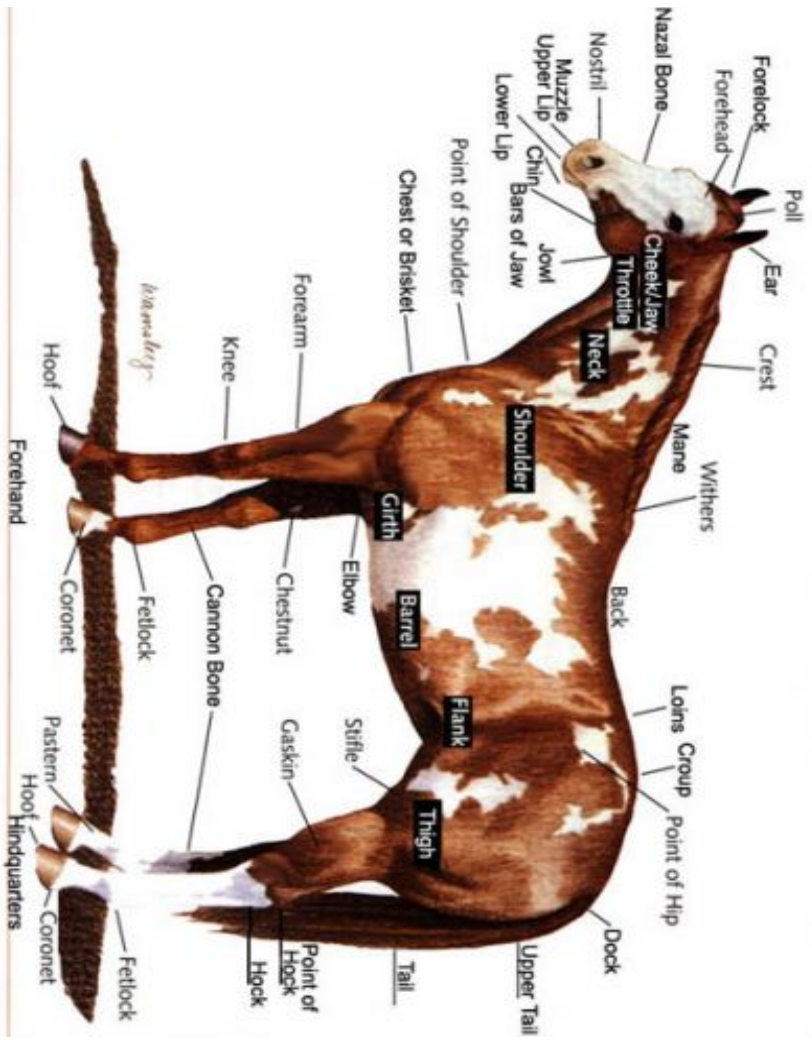
Short for tackle (like fishing tackle). The room should be clean and dry – use a heater to prevent mold. Wash your blankets and pads. Wash your brushes, horse's bits. Keep your tack room organized, label things such as vet supplies (which should be kept locked up or in your house so there will be no chance for kids or dogs getting into the medicine). Use cool Coat on your tack room to reduce the heat inside by 50% in the summer.

#### 24. Parts of the Horse

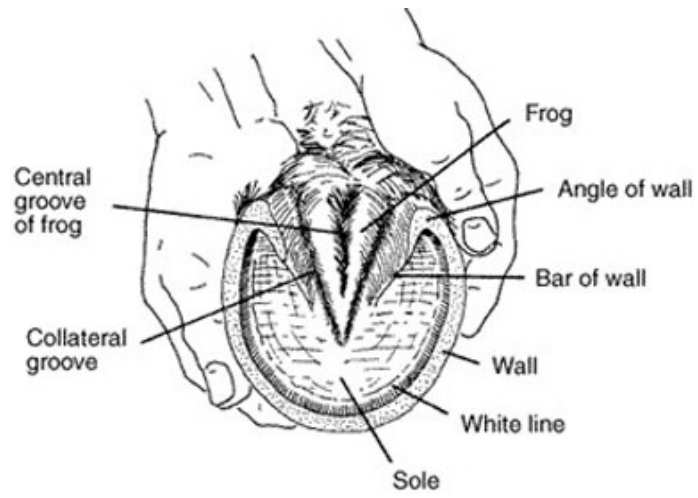
Many posters, books, etc. are available of the many parts of the horse. You should learn the names of the horse parts. For example, you call your vet, you could say, "On my horse's left cannon bone he has a four inch cut and on his fetlock and pastern are many small cuts." Then the vet would know exactly where the injury is.

#### 25. Colors and Marking of Horses

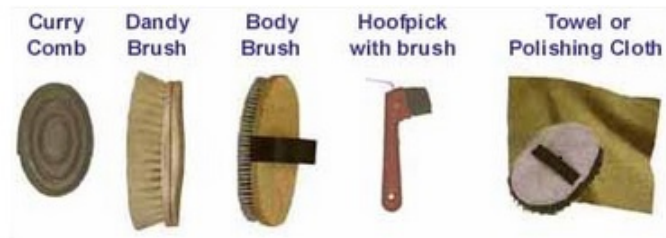
Learn these so you can describe a horse correctly when speaking to other people such as at the horse registry or to a Farrier or veterinarian. (see attached pages)



## Anatomy of the Hoof



## Brushes



Metal Curry Comb

# EQUINE Color Chart



**Gray**



**Black**



**Bay**



**Sorrel**



**Chestnut**



**Brown**



**Buckskin**



**Palomino**



**Dun**



**Grullo**



**Red Dun**



**Blue Roan**



**Red Roan**





Blaze    Stripe    Stripe & Snip    Irregular Blaze    Interrupted Stripe    Bald Face



Faint Star    Star    Star & Strip    Irregular Star    Snip    Lip Marking



Coronet    Pastern    Ankle    Half Stocking    Stocking    Heel

## Hunter Seat Equitation

This is the method of riding taught by Debbie Miller. It is also called Forward Seat or Jumping saddle. The history is mostly English, French, and German and was adopted by most of the military, especially the “posting trot”, a comfortable gait for the rider and easy on the horse for endurance riding. Get a good book and read.

### 1. Mounting

You will usually mount a horse on the left. Be certain you hold the reins with the left hand with the right rein shorter. Put your left foot in the left stirrup, lean across the saddle as you swing your right leg over the horse. Use your right hand to hold your body weight from falling on the saddle – lower your weight slowly.

### 2. Three Point (3-point)

Normal sitting on your saddle.

You have three points of contact:

- Hands
- Seat
- Legs

### 3. Two Point (2-point)

When standing about one inch from the seat of your saddle you keep your knee bent and your weight pushed down in your heels.

You have two points of contact:

- Hands
- Legs

### 4. Center of Gravity

This changes from when the horse is standing still or in forward motion. The center of gravity for a standing or walking horse is just ahead of the saddle. (Draw a line through the horse just behind the front legs). If the horse is young, the center of gravity is about the center of his neck.

### 5. Closed Hip

It is important to correctly use your legs while riding. When you sit on the saddle and have your stirrups adjusted. Grab the belt loop and pull your butt back. This allows your shoulders to be over the front of your saddle and the horse’s whitis and allows free movement of the leg.

### 6. Open hip

This is used for dressage and saddle seat riding. The stirrups are adjusted longer than for hunter seat riding. The rider sits on their butt, hip is open and leg is straight down or forward on the girth.

### 7. Left Track

You are going left track when the rider’s left hand and the horse’s left side are toward the center of the circle or arena. Reverse to the left in a small teardrop shape.

8. Right Track

Your right hand and the horse's right side are toward the center of the circle or an arena. Reverse to the right, back to the outer edge of the circle or arena.

9. Jumping

Horses are born knowing how to jump. You should teach your horse to jump anything either in a jump chute or with a lunge line. I have always said, "You can jump the same obstacle a hundred times and every time is great and fun." – Again, read books.

10. Posting

A rhythmic action of rising and sitting – forward and back – in the saddle by the rider in time to the trot. Used first by the military to save the horses back and the riders energy.

11. Dismounting

The safest method is to shorten your reins and hold them in your left hand. Look around – put your left hand on the horse's neck and your right hand on the saddle. Straighten your elbows and put all your upper body weight in your arms. As you swing your right leg behind you, turn your body so your right hip and right leg are touching the saddle and your body is facing forward like your horse's head. Kick your left foot free and drop to the ground facing forward. If you are facing your saddle, you could fall under the horse. Also, on a tall horse you can't step down because your right leg will not reach the ground with your left leg still in the stirrup.