**[Small horses ABC](http://www.pferde-welt.info/reiten-lernen/ausbildung/22-abc)**



**Action:** The movement of the horse's legs.

**Aids:** Signals or cues by which the rider communicates his wishes to the horse. The "natural" aids include the voice, the legs, the hands, and weight. "Artificial" aids include the whip and spurs.

**Back:** To step a horse backward.

**Bascule:** Term used to describe the arc a horse makes as it jumps a fence.

**Breaking, or Breaking-In:** The early education of the young horse, where it is taught the skills it will need for its future life as a riding or driving horse.

**Broken-In/Broke to Ride:** Horse that has been accustomed to the tack and the rider and has begun initial training. (Also called greenbroke.)

**Canter:** Three-beated gait of the horse in which one hind leg strides first (the leading leg), followed by the opposite diagonal pair and finally the opposite foreleg. Called the lope in Western riding.

**Cavelletti:** Adjustable low wooden jumps used in the schooling of horse and rider.

**Collected:** Controlled gait: a correct coordinated action.

**Cooling Out:** Cooling down a heated horse by walking, brushing, giving very small drinks of water, and sponging him off after he has been worked.

**Cross-firing:** Condition in which the hind foot strikes the opposite front leg or hoof.

**Cues:** Another name for aids. Signals by which the rider communicates his wishes to the horse.

**Dressage:** (i) The art of training the horse so that he is totally obedient and responsive to the rider, as well as supple and agile in his performance. (ii) Competitive sport which, by a series of set tests, seeks to judge the horse's natural movement and level of training against an ideal.

**Driving:** A discipline in which a horse or horses pull a vehicle such as a carriage, cart, or wagon.

**Engagement:** The hindlegs are engaged when they are brought well under the body.

**Extension:** The extension of the paces is the lengthening of the frame and stride. The opposite of collection.

**Flat Race:** A race without jumps.

**Four-In-Hand:** A team of four harness horses.

**Fox Trot:** A short-step gait, as when passing from walk to trot.

**Gait:** The paces at which horses move, usually the walk, trot, canter, and gallop.

**Gallop:** Four-beated gait of the horse, in which each foot touches the ground separately, as opposed to the canter, which is a three-beat gait.

**Going:** Term used to describe the nature of the ground, i.e. deep, good, rough.

**Gymnastic:** Combination of fences placed at relative distances to each other, used in the training of the jumping horse.

**Habit:** Traditional riding attire for sidesaddle riders.

**Half Halt:** An exercise, basically a "pay attention, please" used to communicate to the horse that the rider is about to ask for some change of direction or gait, or other exercise or movement.

**Half Pass:** Dressage movement performed on two tracks in which the horse moves sideways and forwards at the same time.

**Halt:** When the horse is at a standstill.

**High School:** Advanced training and exercise of the horse.

**In Hand:** When a horse is controlled from the ground rather than being ridden.

**Indirect Rein:** The opposite rein to the direction in which the horse is moving. When giving an indirect rein aid, the instruction comes by pressing the opposite rein against the horse's neck.

**Inside Leg:** The legs of both horse and rider which are on the inside of any circle or curved track being travelled.

**Inside:** In a ring, the side of the horse closer to the center of the ring.

**Leader:** Either of the two leading horses in a team of four, or a single horse harnessed in front of one or more horses. The "near" leader is the left hand horse and the "off" leader is the right hand horse.

**Leg Up:** Method of mounting in which an assistant stands behind the rider and supports the lower part of his left leg and giving a boost as necessary as the rider springs up off the ground.

**Leopard:** A rope which attaches to the halter that is used to lead or tie a horse with.

**Lope:** Slow Western canter.

**Manege:** An enclosure used for training and schooling horses. Also called a school.

**Nearside:** The left hand side of the horse.

**Offside:** The right hand side of the horse.

**Outfit:** The equipment of rancher or horseman.

**Outside:** When riding in a ring, the side closest to the rail or fence of the ring.

**Pace:** A lateral two-beat gait mostly performed by gaited horses.

**Passage:** Dressage movement in which the horse trots in an extremely collected and animated manner.

**Piaffe:** Dressage movement in which the horse trots in place, with forehand elevated and croup lowered.

**Pirouette:** Dressage movement in which the forelegs of the horse describe a small circle, while the hind legs remain in place, one of them acting as a pivot.

**Pleasure Driving:** A class of horses pulling carts which is judged on manners and way of going.

**Posting Trot:** The action of the rider rising from the saddle in rhythm with the horse's trot. (Also called Rising Trot.)

**Reverse:** A command used in the show ring to indicate a change of direction.

**School Movements:** The gymnastic exercises performed in the school or manege.

**School:** Enclosed, marked out area used for the training and exercise of the horse. (See also Manege.)

**Shoulder-In:** Two-track movement in which the horse is evenly bent along the length of its spine away from the direction in which it is moving.

**Trailer:** Transportation vehicle of one or more horses, which is towed behind another vehicle.

**Transition:** The act of changing from one pace to another. Walk to trot and trot to canter are known as "upward transitions." Canter to trot and trot to walk are known as "downward transitions."

**Tree:** The wooden or metal frame of a saddle.

**Trot:** Moderate-speed gait in which the horse moves from one diagonal pair of legs to the other, with a period of suspension in between.

**Vaulting:** Equestrian sport involving gymnastic exercises done on the back of a moving horse.

**Vertical:** Upright fence with no spread. Can be rails, planks, gate, or wall.

**Walk:** A slow four-beat gait.

**Warming-up:** The process of going through the gaits while performing suppling exercises to limber up both horse and rider in the beginning of a workout.

**Whoa:** A verbal command used to signal a well-trained horse to stop. Usually combined with gently pulling back on the horse's reins.