



All About **English Tack**

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English Tack

About English Tack

English tack is used in a more reserved style of horse riding and competition. English riding is more formal and stylized, and has different equipment and wardrobe requirements than Western riding. English tack is sometimes called "Eastern" tack. The following covers some information on English tack.

What You Need

English Saddles and Accessories

English saddles, unlike Western saddles, are padded. The stirrups are hooked on and the foot fits fairly closely into them, and they release quickly in case of any problems. English saddles are used in sports such as show jumping, dressage, hunting, racing, and polo.

The English girth (called a "cinch" in Western tack) is buckled, rather than tied to the saddle.

English Bridles and Accessories

English bridles support snaffle (split) bits. The bridle is designed to hold the bit in the horse's mouth. It consists of a headstall with several parts: crown pieces, cheek pieces, a throatlatch, reins, a brow band, and often

English Apparel and Boots

English riders wear sleeker garb than their Western counterparts. Most obviously, they wear snug-fitting breeches, often with leather patches inside the knees or extending up to the backside. English riders wear knee-high leather boots in competition, and often something more flexible when practicing. In addition, English riders wear a derby, tall hat, or cap with a button on top.

Grooming Accessories

The usual kit for grooming your horse includes:

- Hoof Pick
- Curry Comb (rubber, plastic, or metal)
- Body Brushes (having both soft and hard bristle brushes is recommended)
- Mane and Tail Comb
- Cloth



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Groom your horse frequently, and clean their hooves daily.

Because English riding is so much more focused on appearance, there are any number of other things that can be added to your grooming arsenal – coat sprays, hoof dressings, ribbons, and tail extensions are just a few of these.

Feeding and Treats

Feeding and treats do not vary between tack styles. Horses are nibblers, because their stomach is rather small in proportion to their body size. Horses are happy grazing all day long. However, feeding them at least three times a day is often recommended.

How Much to Feed:

- Hay: 2 pounds hay/100 pounds of horse
- Grain: no more than ½ pound of grain/100 pounds of body weight

Treats

Treats need to be included when you are calculating your horse's nutrition. They can be homemade or bought. They include cookies, nuggets, and grain mixes, among others. Of course, many horses like carrots and apples. Some will do nearly anything for a sugar cube – but make that a very occasional treat. It's just not healthy as an everyday item.

Stable Care and Accessories

The options for horse equipment are nearly endless, but you need, at a minimum:

- Food: feed tub, water trough or large buckets
- Water heater (if you live in an area that experiences freezing temperatures)
- Bedding: pitch fork, stable broom, wheelbarrow, manure fork, insect spray
- Horse control: halter, lead ropes
- First Aid Kit

Additional Equipment and Accessories

Additional equipment for all styles of riding is effective endless. English riders can really go to town on formal wear, including jackets, ascots, stick pins, fancier hats, and jodhpurs. There are riding bonnets, helmets, saddle bags, feed bags, novelty brushes and combs, and on and on. What you add to your stable depends solely on your imagination and budget.



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