

Glossary for racing terms.

ace bandage	stretchy bandage used on the legs for support
ace/tranq	ace is the slang term for a commonly used tranquilizer.
assistant trainer	usually in reference to a racetrack position
attitude	has attitude' , not easily pushed around, can be difficult
backside	barn/stable area at a racetrack
backtrack	go the wrong way of the racetrack – normal is counter clockwise
barn area	same as backside/backstretch, the stable area at a racetrack
barn foreman	usually a notch below an assistant trainer and in charge of the other staff
billet	strap on the saddle where the girth is attached
bit	metal, rubber, or plastic piece in the horse's mouth for control when riding
blinkers	used to prevent the horse seeing anything behind the cup of the blinker
bridle	the complete package = headstall, bit and reins
bridle path	strip cut from the mane just behind the ears as a place for the bridle to sit; or a trail meant for the use of horseback riding
brush	many different types for horses, tack, boots, etc. (dandy or curry are common names for horse brushes)
bucket	many different types, most often referring to the water bucket for drinking
bucket brush	used to scrub water buckets and feed tubs

chaps	full-length leather leg covers worn over jeans or breeches
chin strap	to hold the helmet on a rider; also a strap from one side of the bit to the other
cross-ties	a method of tying horses with a rope on each side - for grooming, tacking, etc.
dark days	days of the week when the track does not have racing.
door chains	rubber-covered chains to prevent the horse from walking out when the stall door is open
exercise boy	a male rider at the track who is not a jockey
exercise girl	a female rider at the track who is not a jockey
exercise rider	male or female rider at the track who is not a jockey
exercise saddle	small saddle used for exercising racehorses
first after	will be going to the track to exercise as soon as track maintenance is completed
fit	physically fit, ready to do whatever job is required
five panel work	a five furlong timed workout
foot locker	small trunk used at the track for storage of grooms' equipment
fussy	an attitude – is bothered by little things; or in reference to not eating well.
furlong	one eighth of a mile

gallop	1. a gait. 2. refers to sending a racehorse out for morning exercise
gallop boots	1. worn by exercise riders. 2. protective legwear for horses
gallop boy	male exercise rider of any age, not a jockey
gallop girl	female exercise rider of any age, not a jockey
gallop rider	exercise rider, not a jockey
gallop chart	calendar-like chart for planning the training program of a stable of horses
gelding	castrated/altered male horse
girth	used on english saddles and exercise saddles. goes around the belly to hold the saddle in place.
groom	maid/servant of a racehorse. cares for all its needs
hack	go for a ride that doesn't involve jumping
hackamore	a mechanism used on the nose so a bit is not required
halter	used for leading, tying a horse up, or just on a horse for the purpose of catching it
hands	used in measurement of a horse's height, one hand equals four inches
hay	green! fodder, dried grass or dried legume horse feed
hay bag	refers to either a bag or net type container for feeding hay
hay net	a net used to feed hay

hay rack	a rack in a stall or shed for feeding hay
headstall	a portion of a bridle, used to hold the bit in the horse's mouth
hotwalker	1. a machine used for walking a horse in circles. 2. a person hired to walk horses (both are in reference to racehorses mostly)
hotwalking machine	mechanical device used for walking horses
inside	refers to the horse closest to the inside rail of the track
in training	currently in a program of becoming and staying fit and capable of racing
jockey	person who rides in races - usually maintains a body weight of under 110 pounds
jog	1. at the racetrack, a horse going to jog would only trot on the track and not gallop 2. the western rider/horse version of trot
lead	short version of lead rope, or lead shank 2. reference to the leading leg when a horse is cantering or galloping
lead rope	rope used to lead a horse
lead shank	leather, or leather and chain, or rope, used to lead a horse
left front	the left front leg/hoof/shoulder
left hind	the left hind leg/hoof/hip/stifle
leg a rider up	use your hand on the shin of the rider's left leg to boost him up onto the horse

leggings	leather that wraps around a rider's lower leg and zips up, to make a mock boot
leg up	1. to leg up a rider is to boost him onto a horse as above... to leg up a horse is to get him fit 2. to get a horse fit.
maintenance break	when the track is shut down for harrowing etc, to bring the condition back to optimal
morning hours	refers to the hours the track is open in the morning for exercising/training of racehorses
mount (a)	'a mount' is a horse
muck basket	large woven basket used to throw the manure and wet bedding into when mucking a stall
muck bucket	large plastic bin used to throw the manure and wet bedding into when mucking a stall
muck sack	large sheet of plastic or canvas used to throw the manure and wet bedding into when mucking a stall
mud knot	in a horse's tail, used to keep the tail from picking up mud and getting heavy
near side	the left side of a horse is called the near side
off side	the right side of the horse
pick	"grab the pick" could mean the hoof pick, or the stall pick ...both are for cleaning
picker	the 20+ tine plastic fork for picking manure from stalls etc

pick feet	"picking feet" means cleaning debris out of the horse's foot/h hoof
pitchfork	for cleaning out stalls, or pitching hay into racks
plater	horse-shoer/blacksmith/farrier
polos	fluffy fleece fabric bandages used for protecting horse's legs during exercise
pony	a horse under 14.2 hands, or a full-sized horse used to accompany racehorses
pony boy	a male or female pony-horse rider
pony girl	a female pony-horse rider
pony horse	escort for racehorses on and off the track (generally a full-sized horse)
pony rider	a male or female pony-horse rider
pony strap	a long strip of leather, 5-7 ft, used by the pony rider to hold the racehorse with a rider on board
pull bandages	remove horse's bandages
pull buckets	remove buckets from the stall
pull hay nets	take down the hay net
pull legs	stretch out the front legs one at a time to ensure the girth is not pinching the skin
pull tubs	remove feed tubs from the stall
reins	connect the horse's bit with the rider's hands
rider/jock	on the track, a rider is a jockey

rider	a person on horseback
riding boots	boots with a heel to keep the rider's foot from slipping through the stirrup
right front	the right front leg
right hind	the right hind leg
ring	usually an outdoor riding arena is called a riding ring
rings	refers to the martingale portion of racehorse tack
rub rag	a piece of cloth, usually toweling for grooming the horse
rug	a heavy horse blanket, usually meant for outdoors use
run bloods	the vet pulls a blood sample to check a horse's health
run girth up	tighten the girth on a racehorse for training
run stirrups up	put english saddle or exercise saddle stirrup up out of the way
saddle pad	a thick pad for between the horse and the saddle
saddle towel	a single piece of fabric between the racehorse and the saddle pad
sawdust	used to bed a horse's stall
screens/door	a metal gate used in place of or with a stall door
season	"in season" means the same as "in heat"
set	a group of racehorses going out to the track together, from the same barn, to train
settled	in foal/pregnant
shank	lead shank
sharp	attitude descriptor for a horse that's on its toes and ready to go
shavings	wood shavings used to bed stalls
shedrow	long alleyway with stalls on one or both sides
sheet	thin horse blanket
shit bucket	shit tub, muck bucket... for stall cleaning instead of a wheelbarrow
shit tub	see above

shoer	plater, farrier, blacksmith etc	
shoes	horse shoes made of steel, aluminum or plastic	
shoes-aluminum	used for racing in north america	
shoes plastic	used most often for feet with problems	
shoes-steel	used for racehorses in training and riding horses	
shovel	for mucking out stalls with sawdust or shavings	
snip	white mark on a horse's nose	
snots	a horse with the snots is referring to a horse with an upper-respiratory virus	
socks	white marking on the legs	
spay	a mare surgically altered so she cannot conceive	
spur	metal appliance that fastens to a rider's boot to assist in prodding	
stallion	full unaltered male horse	
stable	a barn with stalls for horses, more commonly called a barn than a stable	
straw	yellow! bedding and not a feed. most desirable bedding for mares when foaling	
tack	any and all equipment a horse 'wears'	
temperature	normal for horses is 100.2 ... give or take a point or two	
temperament	describes what a horse is like to work with	
thermometer types	digital, or old fashioned with a string and a clothes peg for clipping to the tail	
throatlatch	the part of the headstall that goes under the horse's throat	
throw a rider up	give a rider a leg up	
tie chains	chain, rope or rubber bungees tied to the wall to hook the horse to for grooming etc	
tied tail	a tail tied in a mud knot	
tied to wall	a horse hooked to a tie chain	
top door	top half of a dutch door	
tow ring	the area where horses are walked to cool out after exercise	
track	to track a horse is to take it to the track and exercise it.	
track, the	race track, training track, where racing happens	
trailer	for transporting horses	
training	teaching a horse something, or exercising with a specific purpose	
training chart	a paper or electronic calendar of training	
training mill	a machine for exercising horses, sometimes called a dutch mill	

