

# 3a

## How to Prepare a Horse for a Horseshow

Taking care of a horse is a huge **commitment**. Horses are expensive to keep, and need a lot of time and attention. But caring for one of these beautiful animals can be an incredibly enjoyable and **worthwhile** experience. There is no feeling quite like the pride you feel when your horse is on parade, or when they win a rosette or ribbon at the horse show.

When preparing for a horse show, there are a number of steps you should follow to make sure you and your horse are at your very best on the day.

 A curry comb is a rubber or plastic-bristled comb. You can use this comb to gently **stimulate** your horse's skin and muscles.



 A dandy brush is a stiff-bristled brush made from tough **synthetic** fibres, or animal hair.

### You will need:



- ✓ Curry comb
- ✓ Dandy brush
- ✓ Mane comb
- ✓ Sponge
- ✓ Soft cloth
- ✓ Horse shampoo
- ✓ Hoof pick
- ✓ Sheen
- ✓ Polish
- ✓ Cleaning rag
- ✓ Rubbing alcohol or baby wipes
- ✓ Scraper
- ✓ Bucket
- ✓ Towels

### Method

#### 1: Brushing and combing

1. Use the curry comb to brush your horse's body. Work the comb in a gentle, circular motion. This will help to loosen up any dirt in your horse's coat.
2. Then use the dandy brush to gently brush the loose dirt out of the coat and to get any dried mud off your horse's legs. Brush downward, in the direction the hair lies.



Some horses are ticklish or **sensitive** when being brushed! Be gentle, and if your horse still seems uncomfortable, try using a brush with softer bristles.



3. Next, use a mane comb to gently remove any knots from your horse's mane and tail. It is a good idea to start at the bottom and work your way up. Use your fingers to untangle very bad knots instead of pulling at them with a comb, as this can damage the hair.

#### Step 2: Washing



1. Start by washing your horse's face. Horses tend to be sensitive about having their faces washed, so soak a sponge in clean, warm water, squeeze out the **excess** and gently wipe the face.
2. Wet the horse's coat all over. You can do this using a sponge soaked in water, or a hose. If you use a hose, make sure the spray is gentle. Work your way up from the hooves to give the horse time to get used to the water.
3. Use a clean, soft cloth and warm to water to gently wash under your horse's tail and between the hind legs.
4. Apply a small amount of shampoo to your horse and use your sponge to work it into the coat all over (see picture bottom right).
5. Rinse off the shampoo well using a clean, damp sponge and a hose. Point the stream away from the horse's face to avoid getting water in the eyes.
6. Use a scraper, or the edge of your hand, to 'squeegee' the water out of your horse's coat. **Alternatively**, you can use several dry towels to wipe the whole horse down and dry it off.
7. You should also wash your horse's tail, especially if it is a pale colour. Fill a bucket with warm water and shampoo, and hold it in one hand. Swish the tail in the bucket, squeezing the dirt out. Rinse the tail with several buckets of clean water, then dry with a towel.

### Safety first!



Never stand directly behind a horse, as the horse may kick and cause injury. When washing or brushing the tail, always stand beside the horse's rear and reach around



### Step 3: The finishing touches

Now your horse is nice and clean, it's time to add some finishing touches! These could make all the difference between winning a competition and being the runner-up.

1. Pick out the dirt from your horse's hooves using a hoof pick (see right).
2. Apply hoof polish to give the hooves a nice, glossy look.
3. Apply an oil spray to make your horse's coat shine. Be careful not to spray it where your saddle lies, though – this could cause it to slip.



### Step 4: The day of the event

1. Make sure that you dust off and polish your boots before entering the parade ring. After all, you will be judged too!
2. Make sure your tack is **glistening** and your own **appearance** is neat and tidy before you enter the ring.
3. Gently wipe the inside of your horse's ears with a damp cloth to remove any dirt.
4. Always have a couple of rags handy to wipe your horse's face and your own boots.
5. Last-minute manure stains can be cleaned off with baby wipes before entering the ring.
6. Finally, remember to smile!



### Evaluating your horse

Judges at horse shows often give the **participants** feedback. This helps the owners and riders **evaluate** their performance.

A simple way of **judging** how ready you are for the show is to take a photo of yourself and your horse each time you enter a competition. That way, you can use the feedback of the judges to improve your preparations for next time. Good luck!

### A. Comprehension: Fact finding

Answer the questions.

1. What is a dandy brush used for?
2. List all the things you will need to wash your horse.
3. What product will improve the appearance of your horse's hooves?
4. How can you ensure you look your best on the day of the show?
5. What can you do to improve your preparations for your next show?



Can you think of other preparations you might carry out on the day of a show?



### B. Comprehension: Read between the lines

Answer the questions.

1. Why is caring for a horse a 'huge commitment'?
2. Why is your horse's appearance important for a horse show?
3. Is taking care of a horse a risky hobby? Why or why not?
4. When washing a horse, why should the spray be gentle?
5. Is this a hobby you would like to try? Give reasons.



Finishing touches 'could make all the difference between winning a competition and being the runner-up'. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

### C. Vocabulary

Choose the word or phrase that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word.

1. Taking care of a horse can be a worthwhile experience.  
a) difficult b) fun c) rewarding d) boring
2. Running can stimulate blood flow.  
a) prevent b) speed up c) stop d) interfere with
3. When flying, there is an additional charge for excess baggage.  
a) extra b) heavy c) unusual d) significant
4. We could get the bus to Galway or, alternatively, take the train.  
a) lastly b) sometimes c) occasionally d) instead
5. Make sure your tack is glistening in the parade ring.  
a) tight b) correct c) sparkling d) visible
6. If you evaluate your work, it will certainly improve.  
a) watch b) review c) discuss d) understand



Write dictionary definitions for two of the underlined words.



## D. Vocabulary

Choose the most suitable word to complete each sentence.

sensitive appearance participants synthetic judging commitment

- The coach asked the players to make a \_\_\_\_\_ to training.
- Joan was a kind and \_\_\_\_\_ person.
- Cotton is a natural material but nylon is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The film star made a brief \_\_\_\_\_ at the event.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ in the swimming gala lined up by the pool.
- The manager was constantly \_\_\_\_\_ her team's performance.



Can you think of another meaning for 'sensitive'? Write a sentence to show that meaning.

## E. Grammar: Nouns

A **common noun** is the general name of a person, place, animal, occasion or thing.

**Examples:** boy, county, dog, holiday, drink.

A **proper noun** is the specific name of a person, place, animal, occasion or language. Proper nouns always start with capital letters.

**Examples:** Brendan, Dublin, Cocker Spaniel, Christmas, French.

Write the sentences. Underline the common nouns and circle the proper nouns.

- The chef in that restaurant, Georgio, is famous in Italy.
- At Christmas, Alex always makes a delicious cake covered in marzipan.
- Anne and her brother had a short holiday in Paris last Easter.
- Edwin Aldrin was the second person to walk on the Moon.
- On Tuesday morning, Philip and T.J. went out to milk the cows.

A **collective noun** names a group of people, animals or things.

**Examples:** team, pride, bunch.

Write the phrases, choosing the correct collective noun to fill each gap.

deck band collection swarm flock herd

- A \_\_\_\_\_ of stamps.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of birds.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of cows.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of musicians.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of bees.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of cards.

Make a list of all the other collective nouns you know.



## F. Writing skills: Structuring procedural texts

**Procedural texts** tell the reader how to do something, step by step. Procedural texts usually include the following.

- **A goal:** often the title of the text
- **Equipment:** the items needed to carry out the procedure
- **Steps:** the method
- **Result:** the evaluation.



Rewrite the procedural text. Add a goal, a section for equipment, a method with numbered steps and an evaluation.

This is how to make s'mores. For each s'more you will need 2 digestive biscuits, 1 square of chocolate, 1 marshmallow and a microwave. Place one digestive biscuit on a plate. Put one square of chocolate on top of the biscuit. Add a marshmallow on top of the chocolate. Microwave the s'more for 15 seconds. Remove the plate from the microwave and place the second digestive on top. Allow to cool slightly before eating. How did your s'more taste? Was it soft and gooey?



## G. Writing genre: Planning a procedural text

Plan a procedure about how to train a dog to do a trick.

- Think of a trick that you could teach a dog. It could be:
  - ★ How to 'shake paws'
  - ★ How to fetch a ball
  - ★ How to jump through a hula hoop
  - ★ Or something else.
- Make a list of the equipment that you will need, e.g. dog toys, treats, a leash.
- Make notes about the steps that the reader should follow.
- Make notes about how the reader might evaluate the procedure.

