



Mounting

Stage: Riding Away

Module: 11 - Mounting

Code: YHb11v

Goal

To prepare and mount your horse while keeping them relaxed

Purpose

This process will help minimise the stress the transition from the ground to the saddle can present for both horse and rider

Equipment

Snaffle bridle, saddle and pad

Prior Learning

- MOUNTING: Saddle and Move
- MOUNTING: Lunging / Long Reining Pattern
- MOUNTING: Checking for Tension

Method

- Make sure your horse is standing in a balanced way by rocking on their saddle and encouraging them to position themselves so they can brace
- Make sure the girth is snug but not over tight
- Shorten the reins, with the inside rein a little shorter than the outside so your horse's nose is tipped to the inside a little
- Hold your reins in a bridge, crossing them so that your thumb is behind and forefingers are in front. Position your hand to the inside

Tips

- Don't over tighten your horse's girth as they may feel 'trapped' by it and want to run or explode away from it when they go to move off
- A good indication that your girth is tight enough is if you can rock your saddle back and forth and it doesn't shift position



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of the neck so if your horse does something silly you can rotate your wrist and lift up. The horse will then be in an inside flexion position and their best option is to disengage their hind end

- To mount, stand near your horse's shoulder and stay close so they can feel you
- If at any point they start to worry, simply rotate and lift your rein hand and you are in a good position to disengage them

Details

Mounting is one of the most important things when riding as it is where many mistakes can happen, especially with young horses. It is a sensitive process for many horses as it is where you will be making the transition from working them from the ground to working them from the saddle which, despite all the preparation you have done, is going to be an alien concept for a while.

It is therefore very important that you check all the basics. First you want to make sure your horse is standing in a balanced way and that you mounting them isn't going to put them off balance and give them a fright. Rock on their saddle and encourage them to position themselves so they can brace against the rocking. Next, you need to make sure the girth is snug. Rocking the saddle should give you a good indication of this but double check any way. Make

sure you don't over tighten it as you don't want your horse to feel 'trapped' by it and want to run or explode away from it.

Now you want to turn your attention to the reins. When getting on a young horse, I like to shorten the reins, with the inside rein a little shorter than the outside so the horse's nose is tipped to the inside a little. I then bridge the reins, crossing them and holding them so that my thumb is behind and my forefingers are in front. I position my hand to the inside of the neck so if my horse does something silly all I have to do to stop them is rotate my wrist and lift up. The horse will then be in an inside flexion position and their best option is to disengage their hind end – a position they know means 'take a minute to think about this and relax.'

In order to actually mount a young horse, stand near their shoulder and stay close so they can feel you. They should be used to you pulling on the saddle from the preparation work you have done but if at any point on the way up to the saddle or the way down they start to worry, simply rotate and lift your rein hand and you are in a good position to disengage them.