



Lothlorien
Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.



**Western
vs
English**

Overview

**There are two different styles of riding,
English and Western**

**They have quite a few differences, but
the basics are very similar. One is not
more difficult to learn than the other,
becoming proficient in either takes
time.**

**This will be a guide to explain the
differences between the two riding
styles.**

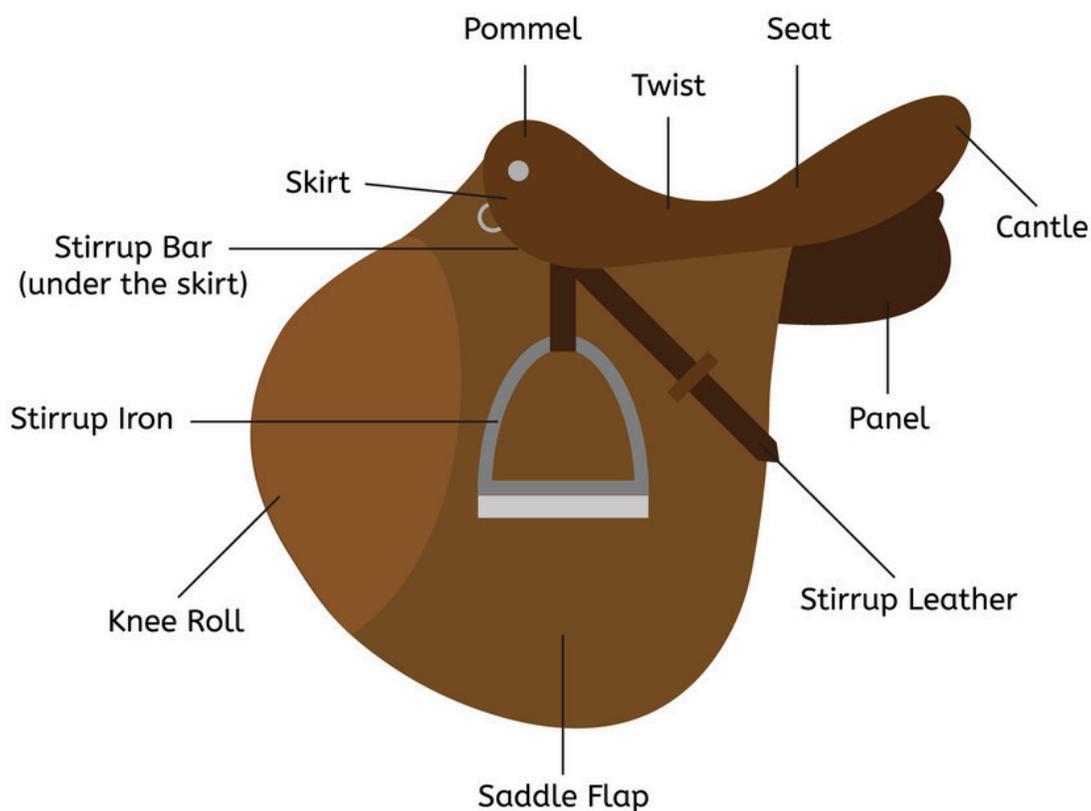
English

**English riding takes many
of its traditions from
Europe and was brought to
America in the 1800s**



English Saddle

English saddles are smaller and lighter and do not have a horn. The English saddle is designed for closer contact.



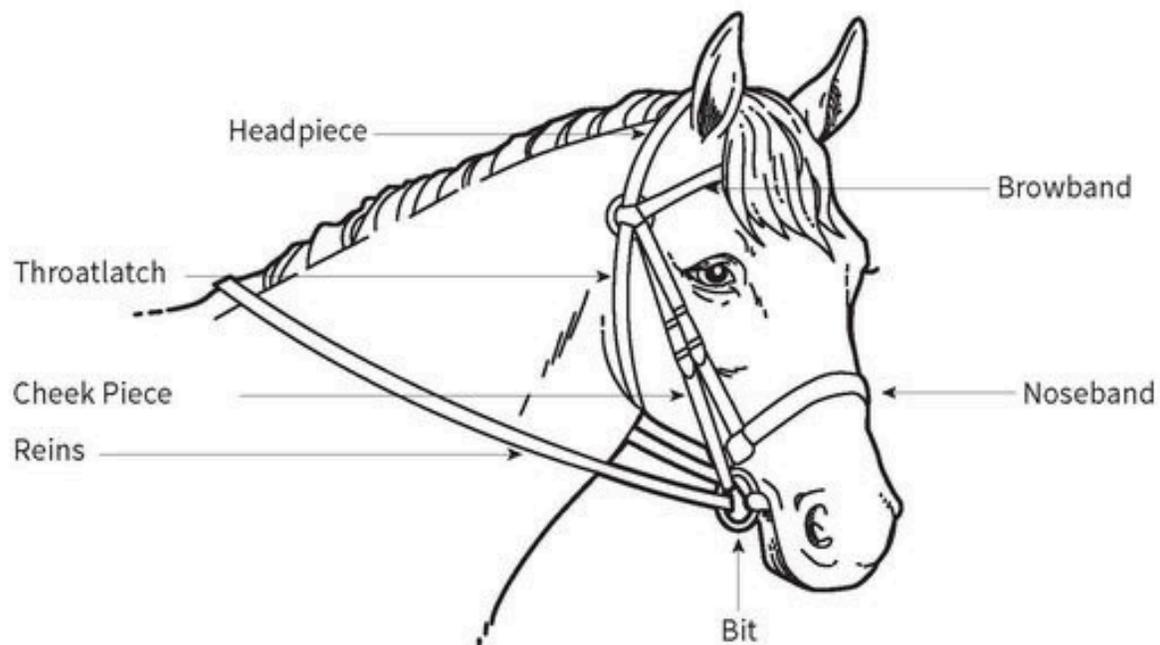
English Girth

English girths is attached to the billets on either side of the saddle and is used to keep the saddle in place.



English Bridle

English bridles are similar to Western but English bridles tend to have nosebands and browbands. English riders tend to use direct reining with both hands.



English Disciplines



Western

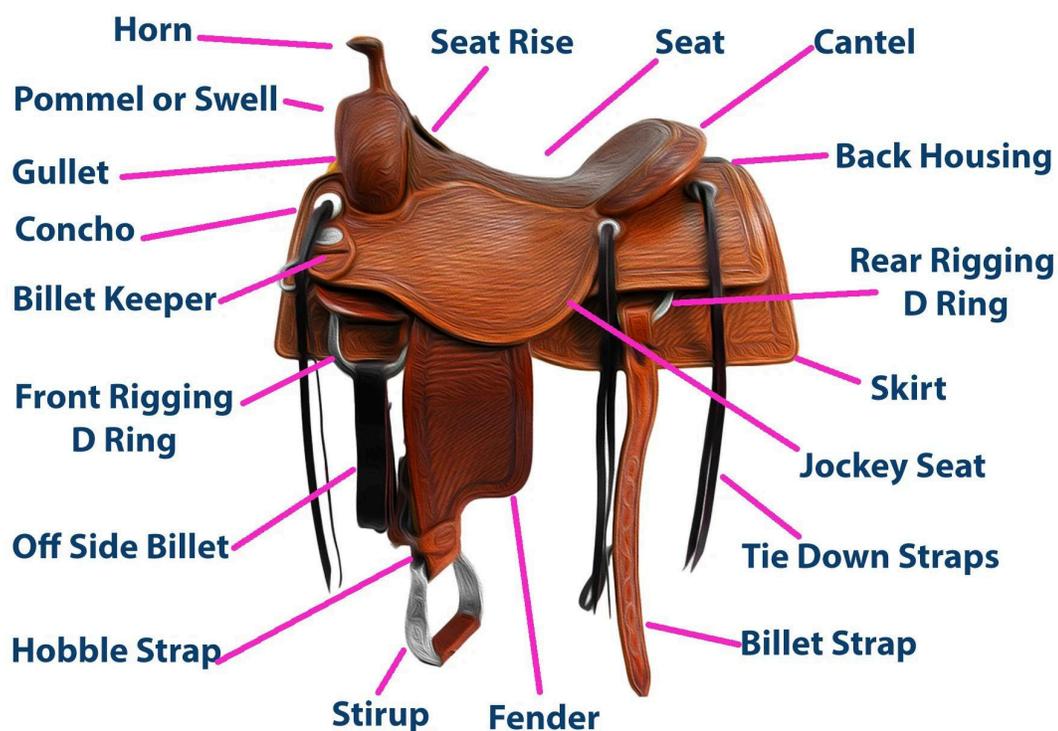
Spanish Conquistadors brought the style of riding to North America. Western riding originated from cowboys working the land, herding cattle and working on ranches in the 1700s.



Western Saddle

The western saddle was made to distribute weight more evenly over the horse's back. The saddle horn was designed to anchor a rope when roping cattle.

PARTS OF A WESTERN SADDLE



Western Girth/Cinch

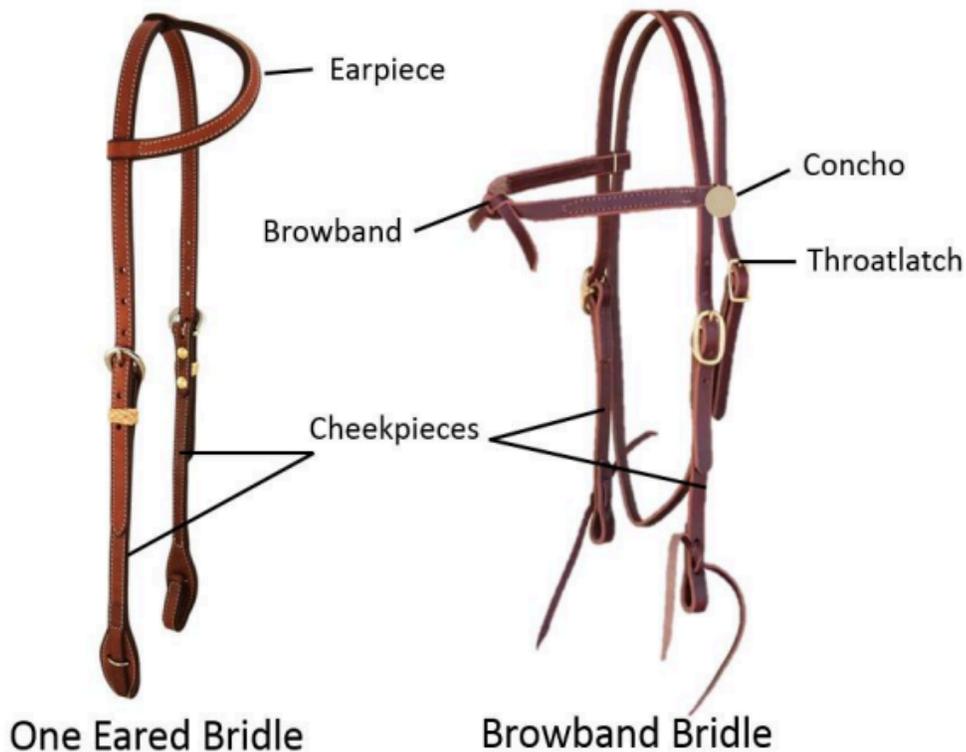
The western grith, also called cinch is attached to both sides of the saddle on the billets. Western griths can be neoprene, leather, or mohair.



Western Bridle

The western bridle was designed to be lightweight and simple. They do not feature nosebands. Western riders typically ride in a looser rein and utilize neck reining with both reins in one hand.

PARTS OF THE WESTERN BRIDLE



Western Disciplines



Roping



Western Pleasure



Barrel Racing



Reining



Cutting



Team Penning

Terminology

Western and English riders label the gaits of a horse differently.

- **Walk:** Very similar for both English and Western.
- **Trot/Jog:** A jog is very smooth, relaxed, and slightly faster than a walk. The jog is useful for following herds of cattle. Riders sit a jog and do not post. In English riding, the trot is posted unless a sitting trot is required in the show ring. This is one of the largest differences in who English riders ride compared to western riders. A faster trot is, however, posted or ridden at two-point when riding western.
- **Canter/Lope:** The Western lope is a slow relaxed canter. English riders will learn that the canter can be very elevated, extended, or collected with many variations in speed depending on the specific discipline or style.

Side Pull

A side pull is a bitless bridle, it is similar to a horse's halter but the noseband is designed for reins to connect on either side of the horse's muzzle.

At LTRC, our riders do not use a traditional bridle but rather the bitless option where the reins are connected to the halter.



Vaulting Surcingle

Vaulting is often described as horse gymnastics, and its history began as an equestrian act in circuses.

Here at LTRC we utilize a piece of equipment used in vaulting, known as the vaulting surcingle.

This tack may be used for riders who have goals specific to balance or trunk control. It may also be necessary for riders with rods in their legs or riders with conditions such as CP where stiff muscles would benefit from the closer contact to the horse.



Happy riding!

