

17 Questions To Ask Before You Choose A Riding Instructor

Protection

1. Are you licensed by the state?
2. Do you have insurance?
3. Will I need to sign a Release of Liability waiver?

Opportunities

1. What disciplines do you teach?
2. Can I choose whether I ride English or Western?
3. Will I learn about horsemanship and horse care?
4. Can you help me set goals and a strategy to reach them?

References & Atmosphere

1. Do you have references from other riders of my skill level?
2. How many other students do you have?
3. Do your other students ride for fun or competitively?
4. How do you handle nervous riders?
5. Will other students ride in the arena during my lessons?

Rules & Procedures

1. What are the barn rules?
2. Are the safety rules posted?
3. How do lessons generally run? Will I need to arrive early to tack up?
4. How much time should I plan to spend at the barn for my lesson?
5. What is your cancellation policy?
6. What is the payment schedule?

10 Things To Look For When Visiting A New Barn

1. Are students wearing helmets?
2. Are safety protocols and barn rules posted clearly?
3. Are there dogs on the property and are they contained and/or obedient?
4. Is the barn clean and well organized?
5. Do the other students seem happy and calm or stressed?
6. Is the tack clean? Is equipment in good condition?
7. Are the other riders friendly and exhibiting good sportsmanship?
8. Do the lessons run on time?
9. Does the instructor/barn manager take the time to answer questions thoughtfully and thoroughly?
10. Are the horses happy? Do they look clean, shiny and in good weight?