

# BIT BY BIT

Check out our 10 fun facts and test your knowledge on bits!



Different materials are used to make bits. Stainless steel is most commonly used, but others are made from copper and sweet iron, or they might have these metals combined with other materials such as plastic.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

Which one of these materials is not used to make bits?

- A Leather
- B Titanium
- C Rubber

The size and fit of your pony's bit is just as important as its design! If it's too short, it will pinch his mouth and if it's too long, it could cause damage when it moves from side to side – ouch!

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

Your pony will likely show signs of discomfort, such as head shaking and hollowing his back, if he's sore in his mouth or his bit doesn't fit correctly. If you're concerned about the type and fit of your pony's bit, you can get help from a biting expert, who will pay you a visit.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

To measure for a bit, you can either use a special bit measuring tool or ask an adult to help you place thick string carefully through your pony's mouth and then measure the string. If you want to know the size of your current bit, place a ruler on top of it and measure from one side of the mouthpiece to the other.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

How much space should there be between the loose ring of a snaffle and your pony's mouth on each side?

- A No space
- B About one finger's width
- C At least two finger's width

The bit and reins form a line of communication between you and your pony. The bit will help you to control your pony, but its use is strongly influenced by your position as a rider, so always keep a soft, kind contact.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

Did you know there are five distinct groups that define the side section of the bit? Each one has a different way of working and function.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

Which one of these is not a type of bit?

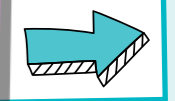
- A Baucher
- B Fulmer
- C Mylo

Mouthpieces can be straight or shaped (ported) to allow room for your pony's tongue. They can also be single or double jointed and each type creates different pressure points in the mouth.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

What is a lozenge?

- A The special chain that goes under the chin and is used with a pelham
- B The name for a bit with two or three rings
- C The oval shape at the centre of the mouthpiece





What are the names of the two bits in a double bridle?

- A Weymouth and bradoon
- B Weymound and balloon
- C Weymouth and platoon

Did you know you can hire bits from bit banks to try before you buy? It's a great way to test the different bits you've been recommended without spending lots of money.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

Some types and styles of bits aren't allowed in dressage, so if you're planning on competing and aren't sure whether yours is accepted, speak to your instructor or check out the British Dressage website for a full list. Some local venues might have more relaxed rules, but it's better to be on the safe side.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

Which of these bits is not allowed in British Dressage competitions?

- A Eggbutt snaffle
- B Three-ring gag
- C D-ring

Did you know that every pony's mouth is unique? Your qualified equine dental technician will be able to assess your pony's mouth and jaw so you can then decide on what type of bit will best suit him.

**KNOW IT!**   
**LEARN IT!**

**I SCORED...**

/16

## HOW DID YOU GET ON?

### 0-5 points Biting blunder!

Oh dear – looks like your biting know-how needs some work. Why not spend time studying the different bits at your yard or speak to a bit fitter?

### 6-11 points Biting buddy!

Great try! You have a solid baseline knowledge on all things bits! You've got a few areas to improve on, though, so try doing some research online.

### 12-16 points Biting brainiac!

Woo-hoo – you've aced our biting quiz, so well done! You have so much fab knowledge about bits, you might even become a biting expert one day!