

TYPES OF ENGLISH BRIDLES

The following are representatives of the most commonly available English bridles. You should work with a professional to determine the bridle that is best for you based on the discipline you ride, your horse, and your budget.



Snaffle: The snaffle bridle can be used for most English disciplines including jumping, dressage, and trail riding. It can be used with a snaffle bit or with a pelham or curb bit. The nose band on a snaffle bridle is designed to rest just below the cheek bones on the horse's face.



Snaffle with a Drop Noseband: The snaffle bridle with a drop noseband can be used for dressage and eventing. The lower band or drop band is used to hold the horse's mouth closed while riding. Using a drop noseband is not allowed in hunt seat competition. The drop noseband can be removed converting the bridle to a snaffle bridle.



Snaffle with a Figure Eight Noseband: The snaffle with a figure eight noseband can be used for show jumping, polo, and the cross country phase of eventing. As with the drop noseband this style is disallowed in hunt seat competition. The eight shape of the noseband keeps the mouth closed while allowing the nostrils to flare.



Full Bridle: The full bridle has two cheek pieces per side for two bits. Horses wearing a full bridle have both a small snaffle bit, called a bridoon, and a curb bit in their mouth. A full bridle also requires two sets of reins- one for each bit. Full bridles are used in dressage and saddle seat riding and should only be used by experienced riders under the direction of a professional.

