



1. punter ['pʌntə]
UK ifml.
2. bookmaker
['bʊk,meɪkə]
3. winnings ['wɪnɪŋz]
4. racecourse ['reɪsko:s],
racetrack ['reɪstræk]
5. grandstand
['grændstænd]
6. bit [bɪt]
7. bridle ['braɪdəl]
8. reins [reɪnz]
9. jockey ['dʒɒki]
10. thoroughbred
racehorse
[θʌrəbred 'reɪshɔ:s]
11. saddle ['sædəl]
12. stirrup ['stɪrʌp]
13. fascinator ['fæsmɪneɪtə]
14. racecard ['reɪskɑ:d]
15. top hat [,tɒp 'hæt]
16. winning post
['wɪnɪŋ pəʊst]
17. home straight
[,həʊm 'streɪt] UK,
home stretch
[,həʊm 'stretʃ] N.Am.
18. betting slip ['betɪŋ slɪp]

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VOCABULARY

A day at the races

Royal Ascot, which takes place in June each year, is one of the highlights of Britain's social season.

ANNA HOCHSIEDER invites you to spend a day at the races.

MEDIUM PLUS

Royal Ascot

Every year in June, Ascot, a small town near Windsor, hosts what is probably the world's most famous **race meeting**. This five-day **flat-racing** event attracts around 300,000 visitors, including the Queen and other members of the royal family, making it one of the highlights of the British **social calendar**.

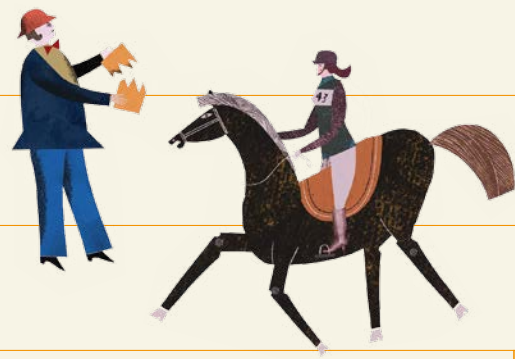
Tickets are available for four different areas, known as **enclosures**. While **formal attire** is requested in all areas, the **dress code** is particularly strict in the **Royal Enclosure**, which is reserved for members.

If you want to **try your luck** at **horse racing**, here's what to do: **pick a winner**, and decide on the **stake** and the **type of bet** you wish to make (**win, place or each-way**). If you are lucky enough to have **backed the winner** and the **odds are long**, you might end up with a **tidy little sum**.

Even if you're not the **horsey type**, you can still get your money's worth at Ascot. The **Royal Meeting** is no less famous for its eccentric **millinery** than for its **equestrian events**. On **Ladies' Day**, the Thursday of **Ascot Week**, **punters bet on** the colour of the queen's hat. Last year, it was **shocking pink**.

PRACTICE

Now try the following exercises to practise talking about horse racing.



Exercise 1



Match the sentence halves to complete the definitions.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| A. A race meeting... | 1. ...is a track where horses race. |
| B. Flat racing... | 2. ...is a sports competition involving horses. |
| C. A racecourse... | 3. ...is a series of races held at one course over one or several days. |
| D. An equestrian event... | 4. ...is the sport of horse racing over flat ground with no jumps. |
| E. A grandstand... | 5. ...is the part of the racecourse where the race ends. |
| F. The home straight... | 6. ...is a large covered structure with seats for spectators. |

Exercise 3



Complete the following sentences (A–F) with words from the list below.

bet | luck | odds | stake | win | winnings

- A. Have you ever tried your at horse racing?
- B. Every punter hopes to turn a small into a large sum.
- C. I £25 on Greased Lightning, but he came in only fourth.
- D. We backed the winner in the first race, but lost all our in the second.
- E. The were short, so we didn't win much.
- F. A(n) bet pays off only if your horse comes first.

Exercise 2



Choose the best definitions (1 or 2) for the words and expressions below.

- A. Someone who is horsey...
- ...looks a little like a horse.
 - ...is interested in horses.
- B. A tidy little sum...
- ...is a small amount of money.
 - ...is a fairly large amount of money.
- C. Millinery...
- ...is another word for women's hats.
 - ...is another word for women's fine clothing.
- D. A bookmaker...
- ...takes bets from people on the results of races.
 - ...keeps financial records.
- E. A punter...
- ...earns money riding horses.
 - ...risks money by betting on the result of a race.
- F. A fascinator...
- ...is a very attractive person.
 - ...is a woman's small decorative headpiece.

The season

In past centuries, upper-class British families living in the country would spend part of the year — known as “the season” or “London season” — in the capital. Many fashionable events were, and still are, held during the season. They include the Wimbledon tennis championships, the Chelsea Flower Show and Royal Ascot. The opera festival held at Glyndebourne is also part of the season.



Answers

1. A-3 B-4 C-1 D-2 E-6 F-5
2. A-2 B-2 C-1 D-1 E-2 F-2
3. A. luck B. stake C. bet D. winnings E. odds F. win