



# EQUINE HERITAGE INSTITUTE

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Our mission is to educate, celebrate, and preserve the history of the horse and its role in shaping world civilizations and changing lives.

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## **Communicating with the Driving Horse**

**The driver must be able to read the body language of the horse.**

**The aids for driving are the reins, voice, and whip.**

**The three rules:**

- **NEVER remove the reins or bridle while the horse is put to the carriage.**
- **NEVER leave a horse unattended when it is hitched to the carriage.**
- **NEVER allow passengers in or out of the carriage without the driver is in position. The driver is the first person in the carriage and the last person out.**

**The balance of the horse is in its head and neck.**

**The Liverpool bit is the most common driving bit.**

**Half-halts and body check are the tools.**

**Inside rein is used for bend and elevation; outside rein is used for flexion and speed; both reins are used for placement of the feet.**

**The voice is for preparation commands, commands, impulsion, cadence, and transitions. The voice is sometimes used for turns.**

**The whip is used to place the body and affects the bend of the neck.**

**Problem: Halt or circle and halt, dismount passengers, dismount driver, unhitch horse, and make necessary corrections.**

**Successful driving is a well-trained horse and a well-trained driver.**



## **Turnout**

**A driving turnout is a composite of the carriage, horse, harness, driver, and passengers. It is the whole picture!**

**The trot is the gait of the driving horse and the quality of which is most judged in the show ring and the gait most used at outings.**

**Turnouts can be classified by purpose, driver, number of horses or ponies, or type of carriage.**

**Purpose:** State (Gala); Town (Formal); Country (Sporting); Family (American); Commercial

**Driver:** Owner, Coachman, or Postilion

**Number of Horses or Ponies:** The most common are: single, pair, tandem (short or long trace), unicorn, four-in-hand; and rare types are: three abreast, reverse unicorn, pic-axe, long team (cock horse), and six-up (six –in-hand).

**Type of Carriage:** The most common are road cart, runabout, Meadowbrook, phaeton, hooded, park, and gig

**The harness should correspond with the type of carriage and number of horses.**

**The driver (carries the whip and is often called the ‘whip’), coachman or coach woman and passengers should be in conservative contemporary attire, with apron (or lap robe), gloves, and hat (seasonal and weather attire is desirable.)**

**Grooms dress in period costumes: Full livery is desirable with more formal turnouts and stable livery is most desirable with sporting or country turnouts.**