

Sample questions to ask a Seller

Ownership

Are you the owner of the horse? If not, who is?

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How long have you owned the horse?

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Who did you buy the horse from?

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Why is the horse for sale?

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Is the horse registered with any society or association? If so, what ones and what name is the horse registered under?

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Are you running a business of selling horses?

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Advertising

I have the sale advertisement here in my hand. Is the information given about the horse accurate?

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Purpose

Adapt the question to suit the purpose, for example:

I intend to use the horse for eventing up to 1 meter. Will it be suitable for that purpose?

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I want to breed with the mare. Can you tell me about her breeding history year by year, over the last 5 years?

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Suitability

Adapt the question to suit the purpose, for example, for your 12 years old daughter who is a nervous, inexperienced beginner rider:

Will this horse be suitable for her?

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Has the horse been ridden by a nervous child rider before?

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Will my daughter be able to safely handle the horse herself?

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Will she be able to catch it in the paddock by herself?

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Will the horse remain safe and quiet to ride and handle if my daughter can only ride it 3 times a week?

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Temperament

Does the horse have any of the following vices? (A vice is a chronic bad or nuisance behaviour which can negatively impact the health and purpose of the horse, personal safety and enjoyment of ownership)

- Kick
- Bite
- Windsuck/Crib
- Rear
- Head Shy
- Fence Walk
- Weave
- Shy/Spook
- Difficult to Catch
- Paw (in float or stable)
- Bolt
- Buck
- Pull back (tied up)
- Head Shake
- Scramble (float)
- Problem Loading
- Strike with Leg
- Stumble
- Cold Backed



Does the horse have any other behaviours that I should know about? (For example, you would expect to be told if the horse suffered separation anxiety from other horses.)

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How would you describe the temperament of the horse?

- calm, quiet, safe and reliable for a beginner rider
- fairly quiet, but only suitable for a rider with some riding experience
- difficult to ride and handle and only suitable for an experienced rider

Has any drug been given to the horse to make it behave today?

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Health

Has the horse been vet checked recently? If so, what were the findings?

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Has anyone decided not to buy the horse recently? If so, why?

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Are there any x-rays of the horse available and when were they taken?

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Has the horse been sick, injured, lame or diagnosed with a disease in the time you have owned it?

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Has the horse ever had surgery?

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Who is your regular vet?

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Is the horse on any regular medication or drugs?

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To the best of your knowledge, is the horse currently sound?

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Has the horse ever been unsound?

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General

Is the horse safe to ride?

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What is the horse like to ride by itself and in the company of other horses?

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What is the horse like to ride on the road, in large open spaces or in the bush?

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What is the horse like to compete or take out to an event or show?

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Is the horse in regular work?

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Who is the regular rider?

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Has the horse been ridden or lunged today (before this inspection)?

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What is the horse like to shoe or trim by the farrier?

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What is the horse like to transport on a float or truck (loading and travelling)? Would I be able to load the horse on to a float or truck by myself?

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What is the normal diet of the horse?

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