**Directions: Read the passage below to better understand the vocabulary words.**

### Vocabulary Words

- cavalletti
- derby
- arena
- endurance
- hackamore
- bridle
- latigo
- gait
- circuit
- hooves
- farrier
- lunging
- out rider
- wrangle
- balk

**Hint**: When learning new terms, look for context clues to help determine the meaning. If the sentence you find the word in is not helpful, keep reading to see if it can be understood.

### My First Horse Show

When I first started riding horses, I was excited to go to my first show. I prepared ahead of time by having the **farrier** come out to put on new shoes. I even polished by **bridle** and saddle so no dust or dirt could be seen. I gathered up my show clothes and put my **derby** in the new hat box that I was given as a gift. The night before, I packed everything in the truck and tried to get plenty of sleep. The show started early so we grabbed a quick breakfast and got on the road by 6 A.M.

The horses were happy to be off the trailer and needed to burn off so energy so I spent a few minutes **lunging** in the small a**rena.** When it was time to show, I got dressed in my show clothes, put my saddle on, making sure to tighten the **latigo** that was looped around the girth, and adjusted my **hackamore.** I painted the horse's **hooves** with black polish to make them shine in the dirt covered arena. I tried to take a deep breath and relax as I watched other classes while sitting on my horse.

The first few classes were for fun. One was an obstacle course where a horse had to **gait** over a **cavalletti**, walk over a tarp, and then open a gate while on horseback. This all had to happen without allowing the horse to **balk**. Next was a class in which a cart was pulled by the horse and an **out rider** jumped in and out when they came to a stop. When my class was called I went in and did my best. While I only took third place, I was hooked. I cannot wait to keep riding on the horse show **circuit.** Perhaps I will even try **endurance** riding or learn to **wrangle** cows and goats.