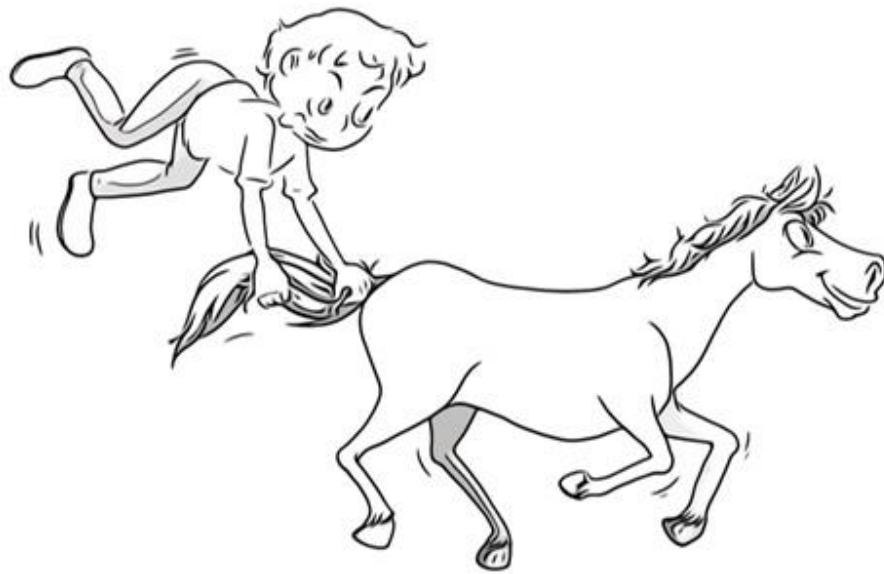


Hold Your Horses!



Sometimes people say, “Hold your horses!” This may seem like a silly thing to say because it is often said to someone who doesn’t have a horse.

Holding a smaller animal, like a kitten, is pretty easy to do. And, it’s possible to hold a horse’s reins or harness. But, holding an *entire* horse is impossible.



“Hold your horses!” is an idiom, a phrase with its own meaning. Long ago people traveled on horses, or in wagons or carriages pulled by horses. A driver would pull back on the reins to slow the horses down or to make them stop. This was called “holding the horses.”

Today, the phrase, “Hold your horses!” means that a *person* needs to slow down or stop for a few minutes to rest or think carefully. It may also mean, “Please be patient.” People don’t need reins or a horse to slow down or to be patient, they just need to know what, “Hold your horses!” means.

