

Click to verify



Have you ever really wanted to get in on a horse race, but found yourself holding back because you were not sure what order the horses would finish in? At times like these, the perfect type of wager to put down is a box bet. The term box bet comes from the idea of boxing a bet. In short, you box a selection of horses that you believe will finish well. This allows you to bet on horses you feel confident about, without worrying what order they will actually finish in. As you might guess, there is more than one type of box bet you can take. When you select two or more horses in a race, but you do not know what order you expect them to finish in, you can use an exacta box to place your wager. For three or more horses, you can use a trifecta box. Placing a box bet may sound complicated at first, but it is relatively easy once you get the hang of it. If you are wagering in person, you start by choosing the horses you expect to win in the first two or three positions (exacta or trifecta box). Once you have that list, you head to the betting window and talk to the clerk. List the track and race you want to bet on, the type of wager (exacta or trifecta box), and then list the amount of your bet and the numbers of the horses for the wager. Double check your ticket, take it with you, and you are good to go. At that point, all you have to do is go back to your seat and enjoy the race. As you might guess, a box bet is even easier to place online, because you are saved the hassle of dealing with a clerk at a window. There is no waiting in line, and no list of information you have to memorize and recite. Instead, you simply enter in the horses you want to box out on your online betting platform. The UK betting site places the wager on your behalf, and you simply wait for the race to finish to see how you made out. If you like the idea of box betting, but are interested in a slightly more specific variation, you may want to try wheel betting out too. With wheel betting, you specify a key horse to finish in a particular position, but the rest of the horses can finish in any placements, just as with box betting. Both box and wheel betting are easy and fun to do online, and if you do your research, they can be very profitable! Read on about other types of horse racing bets you could place in various horse racing events around the year. A box is a method of betting on horses (its also used in sports betting) that requires you to pick the top finishers in a single race but gives you leeway on the order of finish. For example, a trifecta requires you to select the top three finishers in order, so if you bet a \$1 3-5-1 trifecta, they must finish in that exact order for you to win. But if you box the three horses, you will collect as long as they are the top three finishers in the race, no matter what order they finish in. You can box as many horses as you wish, but each time you add a horse, the ticket price escalates. For example, a four-horse box with a base \$2 bet costs \$24. The cost of a ticket can be calculated by the total number of combinations by multiplying the number of horses in the box by the same number, minus one. In the case of a four-horse box with a base bet of \$2, for example, the calculation would be 4x3=12x2=\$24. Read more about strategies in horse racing and check out these American online horse wagering sites to learn more. The term "box" tells the mutual clerk that you want all possible combinations of the horses selected in wagers such as exactas, trifectas and superfectas. Example: Tell the clerk, "Give me a \$1 trifecta box numbers 1, 3, and 7. If you box your selections, as long as the horses you have picked finish first, second, and third in any order, you win. As the number of horses in the bet are increased, the key and box bets can quickly become very costly. Exacta boxes: Number of horses in box Cost for \$1 bet 3 \$6 4 \$12 5 \$20 6 \$30 Trifecta boxes: Number of horses in box Cost for \$1 bet 3 \$6 4 \$24 5 \$60 6 \$120 An exacta box is a way to bet on two or more horses to finish in first and second place in a race. Whereas the straight exacta is a wager on two particular horses to finish in first and second place in that exact order, an exacta box bet can include more than two selections and covers every possible combination of those horses finishing first and second. A two-horse exacta box functions similarly to a quinella in that it covers both possible outcomes for the selected horses finishing in first and second place. However, exacta box bets cost more, can pay more, and can include more than two horses to cover even more winning combinations. 21+ to Play, T&Cs Apply, Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER Exacta Box Example To illustrate how an exacta box bet works, imagine a nine-horse race, and you have narrowed down horses #4, #5, and #7 as the likeliest first-second place finishers. If you're not confident in narrowing down the results any further than that, you can place a 4-5-7 exacta box wager. This 3-horse exacta box would cover all six possible combinations of those horses finishing in first and second place: To put it simply, any two of the three selections need to finish in first and second place for your exacta to win. Because this wager covers six combinations, it would be six times the cost of a single bet. In this case, a \$1 wager would become \$6. The more horses you add to an exacta box, the faster its cost grows because the number of winning combinations also multiplies. How to Place an Exacta Box Bet Online Boxing an exacta bet online is a lot like placing a standard exacta aside from a couple of minor adjustments along the way. As with all horse racing wagers, boxing an exacta begins with logging in to your online racebook and selecting an upcoming race. Once you've chosen the race you want to bet on, you'll see the race program with a list of horses, jockeys, trainers, track conditions, odds, a wagering menu, and much more. The next step is to open the wagering menu and select Exacta. The layout may vary, but you'll usually see all the betting options near the top of the page. Next, your racebook will display additional options to adjust the bet size, choose different types of exactas, and select horses. Racebooks always offer the straight exacta first, so you'll need to use the secondary menu to select the Box option. The last step is to select two or more horses for the exacta, while keeping in mind the cost of the wager. A \$1 straight exacta with two horses costs \$1.00, while a \$1 box exacta with two horses costs \$2.00 because it covers two combinations (1-2 and 2-1). Adding just one more horse bumps up the cost to \$6.00, and it only gets more expensive from there. So, use the wagering interface to keep track of your bet sizes. If your exacta starts to become uncomfortably expensive, you can try keying it instead to emphasize some horses over others and reduce the cost (see the next section for more on the exacta key box). Exacta Box Bet Combinations And Costs The following chart shows how the number of horses added to an exacta box changes the number of winning combinations and wagers cost. The prices below reflect a minimum \$1 base wager. Betting With The Exacta Box Exacta box bets are attractive to bettors because they are much easier to win than straight exactas but still provide healthy payout potential. Experienced horse racing handicappers have a hard enough time identifying the two best horses in a race, let alone predicting their exact finishing order. Newer bettors who would like to venture beyond the basic straight bets should look into boxing an exacta. The wager is not terribly expensive, even with a handful of horses, and the payouts can be quite significant. By contrast, picking the exact finishing order of two horses in a straight exacta, trifecta, or even superfecta is exceedingly difficult even for skilled handicappers. An exacta box bet is a great starting point to play with more advanced wagers without breaking the bankroll or dealing with overly complicated bets. The main thing new bettors should keep in mind when using box exactas is that adding too many horses can make the cost exceed the payout even if one of the combinations does hit. It is not a pleasant experience to win a bet and still lose money with it. Keying An Exacta Box Bet Adding a key horse to an exacta box allows the bettor to emphasize their confidence in a particular horse while picking two or more horses to cover the second-place finish. Consider another example, but this time you are seriously looking at horses #4, #5, #7, and #9. If you feel particularly confident in horse #4 winning but are not as sure about the others for the second-place spot, you can key horse #4 to take first place and cover the remaining horses to finish in second place. This bet would cover all of the following outcomes: The result is a wager that wins if #4 finishes in first place and any of the other selections (#5, #7, and #8) take second place. This bet costs half as much as the three-horse exacta box and still provides a sizable payout as long as #4 comes in first. Exacta Box Bet FAQ Mike Murphy is the founder of BettingUSA.com and has over 10 years of experience in the legal gambling industry. A regular attendee of industry trade shows and conferences, Mike is a strong proponent in the idea of a well regulated online betting industry. Thinking of boxing your bets? Smart move. If you've ever felt the sting of calling the right horses but in the wrong order, the Box Bet is your backup plan and your profit play. In this guide, we'll break down exactly what a Box Bet is, how it works, when to use it, and why it might become your top horse racing strategy at the track. A Box Bet is a type of wager that allows you to cover multiple finishing orders of selected horses. In other words, you're betting on a group of horses to finish in the top spots but they can cross the finish line in any order. No more biting your nails hoping your 1-2 prediction doesn't flip to 2-1. With a Box Bet, you've got all the combos covered. Let's say you're confident that Horse 3, Horse 5, and Horse 7 will finish in the top 3 but you're not sure about the order. Here's how you could play it: Bet: Trifecta Box (3, 5, 7) You're betting on all possible combinations of those three horses finishing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Number of combinations: 6 Cost: If it's a \$1 bet, you're paying \$6 total (6 combos x \$1) You can learn more about navigating trifecta bets here. Bet Type Horses Boxed Possible Combos \$1 Bet Total Cost Exacta Box 2 2 \$2 Exacta Box 3 6 \$6 Trifecta Box 3 6 \$6 Trifecta Box 4 24 \$24 Superfecta Box 4 24 \$24 The more horses you box, the higher your chances of winning but the higher your cost, too. Here's where it gets juicy. You can box just about any exotic bet: Pick two or more horses to finish 1st and 2nd in any order. Great for beginners stepping up from win/place/show bets. Pick three or more horses to finish 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in any order. A sweet spot between risk and reward. Big payouts if you hit but a hefty ticket price if you box 5+ horses. Pick four or more horses to finish 1st through 4th in any order. Because they feel just a little safer than straight bets and give you multiple ways to win. They're a go-to for: Casual fans who don't want to commit to an exact finish order Strategic bettors using handicapping data but allowing for variance Anyone looking to amplify a race-day thrill And lets be honest few things hurt more than picking the right horses in the wrong order. A box bet protects you from that heartbreak. Here's the tradeoff: Boxing bets means you're placing multiple combinations, so your ticket can get expensive quickly. That \$1 Superfecta Box with 5 horses? It'll cost you \$120. So while your odds go up, so does your investment. Smart bettors weigh the cost against the potential payout before boxing too wide. Box Value, Not Just Favorites A box of 4 favorites won't pay much. Mix in a longshot or two for bigger value. Dont Box Too Wide Four horses in a Trifecta Box is manageable. Seven? That's \$210 and harder to hit than it sounds. Consider Keying Instead Like one horse to win but unsure about the others? Try a Key Box. (More on that in a future post.) If you're looking for flexibility and higher hit potential without obsessing over exact order, box bets are a fantastic tool. They're fun, strategic, and they let you play with a wider safety net. Just keep an eye on the cost and don't forget to celebrate when your boxed beauties cross the line in any order you imagined. We all know what its like to walk into a new environment for the first time, whether its a new school or office, or a new friend group, and feel like an outsider because they are using words and references you are unfamiliar with. Likewise, sports like football, basketball, and soccer have all sorts of insider phrases and idioms that can feel like a different language for a newcomer, and perhaps no sport exemplifies this more than horse racing. The complex terminology can feel overwhelming to someone new to the sport, whether you just want to watch and enjoy races or try your hand at betting a few bucks. With that in mind, we've put together a list of some common horse racing terms and betting terms to help lift that cloud of confusion and set you up for success on the path to fandom. Consider this our own version of horse racing and horse betting for dummies. COMMON RACING TERMS Allowance race A race for which the racing secretary drafts certain conditions to determine weights to be carried based on the horses age, sex and/or past performance. Also-eligible A horse officially entered for a race, but not permitted to start unless the field is reduced by scratches below a specified number. Apprentice A rider who has not ridden a certain number of winners within a specified period of time. Also known as a bug, from the asterisk used to denote the weight allowance such riders receive. Blinkers A cup-shaped device that limits a horses vision. Blinkers, often used to try to improve a horses focus, come in a variety of sizes and shapes to allow as little or as much vision as the trainer feels is necessary. Bullet The fastest workout of the day at a track at a particular distance. Claiming race A race in which each horse entered is eligible to be purchased at a set price. Closer A horse that runs best in the latter part of the race, coming from off the pace. Connections Persons identified with a horse, such as owner, trainer, jockey and stable employees. Disqualification Change in order of finish by stewards for an infraction of the rules. Dam The mother of a horse. Entry Two or more horses with common ownership that are paired as a single betting unit in one race. Front-runner A horse whose running style is to attempt to get on or near the lead at the start of the race and to continue there as long as possible. Furlong An eighth of a mile. Graded race A non-restricted race with added money or guaranteed purse value of \$100,000 or more which has been run at least twice under similar conditions and on the same surface and has been assigned graded status for the year contested by the American Graded Stakes Committee. Handicap This race type refers to a race where the weight each horse will carry is assigned by the tracks racing secretary or handicapper based that horses past performances. Length A measurement approximating the length of a horse, used to denote distance between horses in a race. Off track A track that has a wet surface and isn't labeled as fast. Pacesetter The horse that is running in front (on the lead). Past performances A horses racing record, earnings, bloodlines and other data, presented in composite form. Prep A workout (or race) used to prepare a horse for a future engagement. Post Parade Horses going from paddock to starting gate past the stands. The post parade provides spectators with a chance to get a final look at the horse before the race. Post Position Position of stall in starting gate from which a horse begins a race. Rabbit A speed horse running as an entry with another, usually a come-from-behind horse. The rabbit is expected to set a fast pace to help the chances of its stablemate. Rank A horse that refuses to settle under a jockeys handling in a race, running in a headstrong manner without respect to pace. Scratch To be taken out of a race before it starts. Silks Jacket and cap worn by jockeys. Sire Father of a foal. Stakes A race for which the owner usually must pay a fee to run a horse. The fees can be for nominating, maintaining eligibility, entering and starting, to which the track adds more money to make up the total purse. Some stakes races are by invitation and require no payment or fee. COMMON BETTING TERMS Account wagering Betting by internet or phone, in which a bettor must open an account and deposit money with which to bet. Across the board A bet on a horse to win, place and show. If the horse wins, the player collects three ways; if second, two ways; and if third, one way, losing the win and place bets. So actually, its three bets. Bounce An especially poor performance on the heels of an especially good one. Box A betting term denoting a combination bet whereby all possible numeric combinations are covered for certain horses. Bridge jumper A person who wagers large amounts of money, usually on short-priced horses to show, hoping to realize a small but almost certain profit. The term comes from the structure those bettors may seek if they lose the bet. Chalk Betting favorite in a race. Chalk player Gambler who wagers on favorites. Daily Double (or Double) Type of bet calling for the selection of winners of two consecutive races. Exacta A wager in which the first two finishers in a race, in exact order of finish, must be picked. Exacta box A wager in which all possible combinations using a given number of horses are selected. Exotic (bet) Any bet other than win, place, or show that requires multiple combinations. Examples of exotic wagers are trifecta, Pick 6, and Pick 4. Handle Amount of money wagered in the pari-mutuel system on a race, full day of races, or entire racing season at a track. In the money A horse that finishes first, second or third. Key horse A single horse used in multiple combinations in an exotic bet. Morning line The starting odds set by the track handicapper. On the board Finishing among the first three. On the nose Betting a horse to win only. Overlay A horse whose odds are greater than its potential to win. Pari-mutuel System of wagering where all the money is returned to the bettors after deduction of track and state percentages. Parlay A multi-race bet in which all winnings are subsequently wagered on a succeeding race. Part wheel Using a key horse or horses in different, but not all possible, exotic wagering combinations. Pick (6 or other number) A type of multi-race bet in which the winners of all the included races must be selected. Pick 3, Pick 4, Pick 5, and Pick 6 are commonly used by tracks in the United States. Place bet A bet on a horse to finish first or second. Quinella - Bet in which the first two finishers must be picked in either order. Show bet A bet on a horse to finish in the money; third or better. Speed Figure A metric that rates a horses performance in a race, which is determined by a combination of the horses performance and the level of competition he/she competed against. Trifecta A bet in which the first three finishers must be selected in exact order. Trifecta box A trifecta wager in which all possible combinations using a given number of horses are bet upon. Underlay Horse whose odds are more promising than his potential to win. Win A bet on a horse to finish first. Wheel Betting all possible combinations in an exotic wager using at least one horse as the key.

Horse racing betting words. Horse racing betting terms trifecta. Betting terms horse racing. How does a box bet work in horse racing. Horse racing betting definitions. Horse racing betting terms explained.