

BONUS SET - STUFF HAPPENS WHILE INSTRUCTING

Stuff Happens Cards are designed to print on plain 8.5"x11" white card stock.

This file contains 5 pages of cards. Print all 5 pages, then cut them into 4 cards each, which will give you a total of 20 cards in the set.

The first page of cards is an optional "back side" for the cards. You can just print the card pages and leave the back side of each card blank – but we like the name of the card set on the back to help keep things organized.

If you choose to add the back side: first print 5 copies of that back page, then set those pages in your printer so that the remaining pages will print on the reverse side. (Might want to test this on a sheet of copy paper first to adjust for your printer.) When you cut them apart, you should have the name of the card set on the back of each card.

REMINDER: *Make sure your printer settings for the PDF file are NOT set to "shrink to fit"!*

So ... about this card set:

Yes, every situation mentioned in these cards did actually happen to us. After 16+ years of instruction, you get to thinking that you've seen it all. But no.

We decided it might be fun to create this set of scenarios to discuss with our students-who-also-teach-their-own-students. Then we realized that YOU can probably relate to many of these experiences, and might want to have these or similar discussions with your own assistant instructors.

We're also pretty sure that you have some epic stories of your own to share. If you want to contribute to the next set of WHILE INSTRUCTING cards, use this website link:

<https://horsesenselearninglevels.com/connect/contact-us/>

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You are teaching a lesson on posting diagonals when your beginner student and her horse come to a screeching halt.

“Bear!” she shouts.

Confused, you look up, and sure enough, there is a black bear in the yard outside the arena.

You are sending an intermediate group through a gymnastic jumping exercise when out of the corner of your eye, you spot a miniature horse foal crawl under the fence and take off galloping straight toward your grid.

You have an arena full of Red Level children attempting to steer on their own - emphasis on attempting. You hear a shout, and look up to see your Haflinger galloping around the parking lot.

In the middle of a huge clinic, you realize there is a cow drinking out of the water trough next to the arena.

You don't own a cow.

You promised your student that if she works hard during her lesson, you'll let her jump at the very end. Just as you're setting up a crossrail, you notice the western horizon has turned black. There is a rumble of thunder in the distance.

You are working on transitions with an advanced beginner when you notice your 24-year-old saint of a school horse acting antsy. Suddenly, he bolts - faster than you've ever seen him run! The girl holds on, but is clearly terrified as the horse gallops one lap of the arena... then a second... then a third...

Your intermediate student has been saving for a new saddle for months. She finally purchases a brand-new Circuit that fits her like a glove. In her first lesson with it, you notice her horse pinning his ears and swishing his tail every time she lands off a jump.

Your new student just got her own schooling helmet. She's very proud of it - especially the pink unicorn design! You helped her adjust it before the ride, but during the lesson you notice that it keeps shifting back, leaving her forehead exposed.

You are leading a beginner trail ride when your neighbors come racking at full speed up the hill behind you, whooping all the way.

You are leading a Blue Level student on her first cross-country ride. You are in the middle of a 15 acre pasture - you on your spirited Arabian and she on a school pony - when you look up and see your lame-on-stall-rest horse trotting down the road, lead rope and bandages flying.

(Of course, he's not limping at all.)

You're the only one at the barn. You and your beginner - who is 65 years old - are warming up at the walk. The vet shows up two hours early, and wants to sedate three horses and float teeth ASAP.

One of your favorite students is a no-show, no-call... again.
Her parents still owe you for the last two lessons.

Right before your totally full camp, your best lesson horse goes lame. Your boarder offers her pony, "Tinkerbelle," for your use. You haven't seen Tinkerbelle go or ridden her, but surely she'll be fine - she's supposed to be child-safe.

Your Yellow Level student is 10 years old and allergic to exercise. After six months of lessons, she still slouches, points her toes at the ground, and rides inattentively with reins too long. Every week she asks you, "Why can't I canter? Everyone ELSE gets to."

Your 12-year-old student just got spectacularly bucked off in the middle of the cross-country field. She says she's completely fine - but there's a giant scuff on her helmet and she cracked the brim.

It's been raining for so long there are actual ducks floating in the arena. Every afternoon your phone starts ringing as parents ask if lessons are still on for the day.

One of your students tells you she wants to go to the big fall show and compete in the 2'6" division. But every week when you ask her what she and her horse have been doing between lessons, she says, "Well, we've been busy... too busy to ride."

You have a 4pm lesson scheduled on Romeo, one of your more popular beginner mounts. At 3:50, you find him in the midst of a wild-eyed bucking/snorting/galloping festival with the other horses in the pasture.

Your middle-aged student is cantering around on your elderly TB. When her reins get long and he fails to promptly return to a trot, she starts screaming, "WHOA!!! at the top of her lungs. Her hands fly up, hitting him in the mouth, and she stiffens up, bouncing six inches out of the saddle and banging him with her legs.

You are teaching an intermediate camp and it's everyone's favorite day: gymnastic jumping. You have a 13.2hh pony, a 15hh Quarter Horse, and a 16.2hh Thoroughbred in your first group.