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### Jumping clinic with Rodney Tulloch



This first rider has a very good foot and ankle position. Her toe is turned out, ankle is supple and flexed, and she has the weight nicely placed in her heel. I see that her base of support is quite lovely, which is something I like to see. She has her seat out of the saddle to free her horse's back as he jumps. She does this very well, from her great foundation of foot and leg placement. This is something every rider should strive for.

Her posture is great, with her back flat, and relaxed shoulder and arm. Ideally she would be more centered and not tipped to the right quite so much, but this is a minor point. With her hands pressed into the neck, she is able to follow her horse and stay connected. This horse is reaching to get across the back rail, perhaps from leaving the ground a bit off the base.



This horse is lovely to look at. It has a beautiful jump and a great topline. This is what you'd call a classic jumper. Therefore my comments and are saved primarily for the rider. First off this rider's stirrups are far too long for jumping. They appear to be fine for flat work, but not jumping. This makes it difficult to keep his heel down, and therefore we see his leg has slipped back. The short crest release is well done, with his hand resting nicely on the horse's neck, giving support to his upper body and freedom for the horse's head and neck. His posture needs some work as his back is rounded. Flat in the two-point position would be a helpful exercise. The rider's ducking to the left is not ideal; it would be far better if he were looking straight ahead and not looking down.



Now here is an accomplished and effective rider. Her weight is in her heel, again something I like to see, and turned at the correct angle. Ideally her foot would be further through the stirrup, with her leg pushed forward. But overall, she's quite good.

Her hands are on top of the neck in the correct crest release, which makes it easy for her horse to use its neck and shoulder. The soft, loose rein indicates she is in the hunter ring and not equitation class. Her posture is good with her flat back and her head up and looking for the next fence. She is jumping up and slightly ahead of the horse, perhaps to stay with the big jump. Her horse is jumping well with a nice expression. Overall, I would say that this is an accomplished rider.

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