

Upsetting the Calm

- Not enough consistency, too much variety too soon
- Not recognizing and addressing early tension
- Over-facing: asking the horse to do something he wasn't prepared for
- Punishment/harsh corrections
- Lack of leadership/plan

Blowing the Trust

- Proceeding without permission
- Hurrying the horse when he hesitates
- Ignoring tension
- Pushing/coaxing rather than waiting and allowing; this equates to force
- Not enough retreat
- Not waiting until the horse has let go of the tension—sighs, blows, breathes
- Misreading obedience for willingness

Ruining the Motivation

- Too much repetition (once the horse is confident); in Left-Brain mode, horses learn fast
- Being too direct-line (use more reverse psychology—for example, when your horse doesn't want to go faster, ask him to go slower; it builds mental curiosity)
- Bribing with food rather than using it for incentive (see the article "Bribe vs. Bonus" in the next issue)
- No sense of humor (frustration on your part will signal to your horse that he's more dominant—he's gotcha!)
- Lack of creativity and imagination
- Lack of a plan and lack of flexibility in this plan
- Physical exercise—he's got to be mentally involved (Patterns)
- Micro-management—give him responsibility (Patterns)
- Asking for things before you've got him in the mood
- Asking for his all every time—if you overdo it, your horse will become dull or develop performance anxiety
- Perfectionism—you have to know that as the relationship improves, your precision will, too; it's not the other way around

Creating Disobedience

- Too much discipline too early—preventing your horse from doing something will usually lead to an argument (Left-Brain horses love to argue, so when you try to make them do things or make them feel wrong for doing something you didn't want, it will create disobedience, it will create an argument; just say "How interesting!" and then encourage him—"Go ahead, do it . . . and then some!")
- Not enough variety; you need consistency and variety for this horse, but more variety first
- Perfectionism—allow it to develop, don't demand it; have a sense of humor
- Lack of a plan: As soon as he is in the learning frame of mind, give him something to do (Patterns); you have to be one step ahead (or more!) in this quick-thinking state
- Too much precision, not enough relaxation to keep a balance; there are Four Savvys for a reason—use all of them!
- Asking for too much for too long; don't wear him out; stay this side of trouble so it is provocative but not pressure 🐾

