To improve your horse’s suppleness and agility on bending lines...

Imagine the curve of your horse’s spine bending similarly to the way a whip flexes (poll to tail). Pay close attention to the turn of the horse’s head (or flexion at the poll) as that helps curve the neck correctly. Moving your horse laterally sideways on circles and in corners makes going straight more fluid and forward. – Holly Mason

Holly Mason is a dressage instructor and the author of It’s Never Too Late, a comprehensive overview of the biomechanics of horse and rider. Having studied with many of the modern masters of dressage, Holly has coalesced the biomechanical concepts of the classical principles into teaching methods designed for contemporary riders. Find her book and her DVD, “Focus on Flexibility”, on her website dressagebydesign.com

Illustration by Sandy Rabinowitz