

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Dog Tricks

It's fun to have your dog do tricks when your friends come to your house to hang out. Seeing Rover play dead, talk, or open the refrigerator is quite a crowd pleaser.

But tricks are not only great entertainment. They are also a great way to bond with your dog, integrate your dog with your family, and keep your dog physically and mentally challenged.

Experts say that teaching your dog tricks is not all that difficult, but patience is crucial. If you don't have patience, you will never be able to teach your dog tricks.



There are three steps to follow in order to successfully teach your dog a new trick. The first is to give your dog a verbal cue (sit, come, stay) or a physical cue (a raised hand) that lets him know what you want him to do. The second step is that your dog does what you would like him to do. The third step is to reward your dog for accomplishing the task.

Noted dog trainer Kyra Sundance advises people who are trying to teach their dog tricks to reward with tasty treats, to train before dinner, and to motivate using a happy voice!

1) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best definition for **crucial**?

- A. very big
- B. very good
- C. very important
- D. very difficult

2) The main purpose of paragraph 4 is to

- A. show how difficult dog training can be
- B. provide concrete advice on how to train a dog
- C. prove that the author is an expert in dog training
- D. suggest that treats are the most important part of dog training

3) Based on information in paragraph 4, we can understand that something **verbal** is

- A. felt
- B. seen
- C. heard
- D. spoken

4) In paragraph 4, we learn about the importance of using "physical" cues to train your dog. Using this information, we can understand that which of these choices also describes something **physical**?

- A. Martha thinks about her husband.
- B. Angela dreams about her upcoming birthday.
- C. Rudy runs and kicks the soccer ball.
- D. Slater solves the math problem in his head.

5) Which of the following statements would Kyra Sundance most likely agree with?

- A. Dogs are very picky eaters.
- B. The author knows a lot about dogs.
- C. Dogs learn tricks best when hungry.
- D. Playing dead is the most popular dog trick.

6) Using your own words, explain why teaching a dog a trick can be good for both you and the dog.

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## Answers and Explanations

1) C

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**crucial** (*adjective*): of utmost importance; very important.

In paragraph 3, the author says, "Experts say that teaching your dog tricks is not all that difficult, but patience is crucial. If you don't have patience, you will never be able to teach your dog tricks." This means that owners who do not have patience will not be able to teach their dogs tricks. So, it must be very important for owners to have patience. This lets us know that **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 4, the author gives us "three steps to follow" in order to properly teach our dog tricks. The author then lists the three steps, which are all very concrete, or definite. By giving us concrete advice, the author provides actual ways in which we can begin to teach our dog tricks. We can put these steps into action immediately after we are finished reading the passage. This means **(B)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) D

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**verbal** (*adjective*): expressed in spoken words.

In paragraph 4, the author says "There are three steps to follow. The first is to give your dog a verbal cue (sit, come, stay) or a physical cue (a raised hand) that lets him know what you want him to do." Since the author lists the words "sit, come, stay" as examples after telling us to give our dog a "verbal" cue, this lets us know that something verbal must be something that is spoken. This means **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) C

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**physical** (*adjective*): involving the body as opposed to the mind or spirit.

In paragraph 5, the author says, “There are three steps to follow. The first is to give your dog a verbal cue (sit, come, stay) or a physical cue (a raised hand) that lets him know what you want him to do.” Since the author lists “a raised hand” as an example after telling us to give our dog a “physical” cue, this lets us know that something physical must be an action that involves the body. When Rudy runs and kicks the soccer ball, he is using his legs, which are part of his body. This means **(C)** is correct.

Choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** all involve something mental, or something that involves the mind. This is the opposite of something physical. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In the last paragraph, the author says that Kyra Sundance “advises people trying to teach their dog tricks to reward with tasty treats, to train before dinner, and to motivate using a happy voice!” Among these various tips is the idea that dog owners should reward the dog with tasty treats, and train their dog before dinner. This supports the idea that Kyra Sundance probably thinks dogs learn tricks best when they are hungry. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the author seems to know a lot about dogs, the passage does not provide information to let us know what Kyra Sundance’s opinion of the author is. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.