

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.
