



Be a Dictionary

Goal: For you to feel that your dog understands you and what you are saying by increasing your dog's vocabulary. This will create better communication so that you two can share an awesome relationship!

Steps

- 🐾 When teaching your dog, always use short words and phrases.
- 🐾 Please don't say "Good Dog" "Good Girl" etc. as this does not let your dog know that WHAT they did was good. It doesn't communicate the behavior that made you happy.
- 🐾 Attach the word Good to the behavior. Example: when teaching sit, say "Good Sit" or you can say "Siiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiit" in a sing-songy and happy tone.
- 🐾 The simpler the language the easier it is for them to understand.
- 🐾 Acknowledge the behavior/action.
- 🐾 Use repetition i.e.: Sit, sit, sit, sit, and good sit.
- 🐾 Be patient. It is going to take your dog time to associate the action with the word.
- 🐾 Silence is also a powerful teaching tool. Once your dog knows a behavior wait patiently, in silence, for her to offer that behavior. For example when wanting your dog to sit before getting her meals try silence and wait for her to sit.
- 🐾 Silence can also be used after giving a command. Be silent and wait, you don't need to continually repeat the command until your dog complies. Ask her to sit and wait until she does, then reward!!! No need for nagging 😊
- 🐾 Tone of voice is very important because dogs connect to it. For example: if you say "Bad dog" in a loving and fun tone your dog will listen to the tone not the words and think she has done something good.
- 🐾 Training is like being an actor or a parent. Exaggerate your voice and body language to clearly send a message that you are happy or not.
- 🐾 Act as though even the smallest accomplishment is a big deal.
- 🐾 Once your dog learns the command you will not have to be that dramatic when issuing the command.
- 🐾 Please don't bark commands at your dog, keep that tone of voice for emergencies.
- 🐾 As you would with a toddler, you are teaching your dog a new language so name everything!

- 🐾 Remember this is the language between you and your dog so choose words that you will remember so your dog does not ever get confused. Make sure that everyone in your home uses the same words for actions so your dog doesn't get confused.
- 🐾 What is the word for going to the bathroom?
- 🐾 What is the "Release" command? I say "No More"! Do not say OK as the release command because you may say it while talking to another person, OK?
- 🐾 And most importantly, be silly and have fun!!!