

HOW TO ABILITY TRAIN YOUR DOG

*Just like the kids in **New Kids & Underdogs**, you can ability train your dog!*

Dog training can be a great bonding experience for you and your pet. Encourage your dog by consistently and enthusiastically exchanging praise and training treats for the behaviors you like. Never punish your dog for not doing what you want them to do or for making mistakes. And get permission from your adults and your veterinarian before beginning any training program with your dog.

SCENT TRAINING AT HOME

Your dog has a superpower: their sense of smell. Dogs can smell up to 100,000 times better than humans. That's why some dogs can be trained to sniff out bombs, drugs, and survivors of natural disasters. But scent training can be fun for all dogs and their people. Here's how you can get started:

- 🐾 While your dog is watching, grab a couple of your dog's favorite treats and close yourself in another room. Place the treats in obvious places on the ground. If your dog is visually impaired, make sure they get a good sniff of the treats.
- 🐾 Open the door and let your dog find the treats. If your dog is visually impaired, you might want to lead them on a leash the first few times.
- 🐾 Praise your dog and give them one more treat.
- 🐾 Follow this routine one or two times, every day, for about a week.
- 🐾 Once your dog understands the game, begin to make the hiding places a little less obvious so that your dog has to sniff the treat out.
- 🐾 Over time, you can make the hiding places even harder, and you can play the game in different rooms or even—if you have one—your yard.
- 🐾 **ALWAYS** praise your dog when the game is done and let them know what a good job they did.

HULA-HOOPING, CANINE STYLE

Got a Hula-Hoop? You can teach your dog to jump through it. Here's what you do:

- 🐾 Get some of your dog's favorite treats. Hold them in your hand or pocket.
- 🐾 With one hand, hold the Hula-Hoop vertically. Place the bottom of the Hula-Hoop on the ground.
- 🐾 While your dog is watching, drop a treat so that it is on the other side of the Hula-Hoop. If your dog is visually impaired, let your dog smell the treat, then gently toss the treat through the hoop.
- 🐾 If your dog walks through the hoop to get the treat, praise them and give them another treat. If your dog goes around the Hula-Hoop to get the treat, that's okay. Keep trying. Your dog will figure it out.
- 🐾 Once your dog understands the game, lift the Hula-Hoop a tiny bit off the ground so that your dog needs to jump through the hoop to get the treat. As your dog gets better, you can try different heights for your dog to jump through. If your dog is visually impaired or has a physical disability that makes jumping challenging or unsafe, keep it fun by letting the bottom of the hoop rest on the ground.



A SILLY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK STORY

Ask a friend or group of friends for the parts of speech listed below and fill in their responses on the blank lines. Don't repeat words, except in the one blank indicated. Then read the full story aloud.

HOW TO TELL IF YOUR DOG IS AN EVIL GENIUS

Bruce is an evil-genius poodle in *New Kids & Underdogs*. Here is how to tell if your dog is an evil genius too.

If your dog _____ on the _____ when your
VERB ENDING WITH -S NOUN

family sleeps at night, your dog is NOT an evil-genius, but they may need _____. However, if your dog always eats _____
PLURAL NOUN PLURAL NOUN

and then _____ when you are trying to do your homework,
VERB ENDING WITH -S

your dog is definitely an evil-genius. Your dog is also an evil genius if they _____ and _____ and _____ while you
VERB ENDING WITH -S VERB ENDING WITH -S VERB ENDING WITH -S

are _____ with your friends and family.
VERB ENDING WITH -ING

There is only one way to deal with an evil-genius dog. You must train them to _____ and _____. You must also give
VERB VERB

them lots of love, attention, and _____. Make sure the
PLURAL NOUN

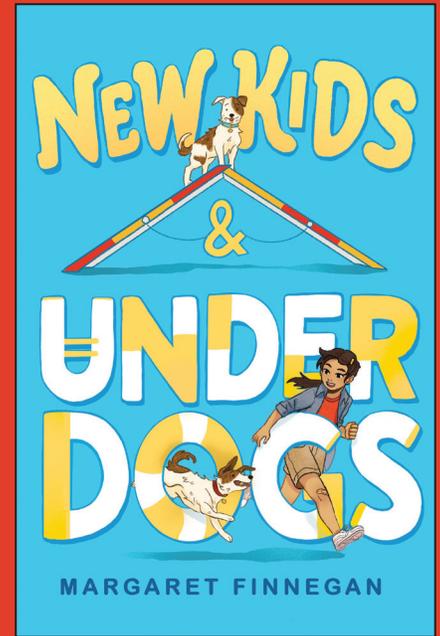
_____ are as _____ and _____ as
REPEAT THE SAME PLURAL NOUN ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE

possible. If necessary, use _____ to make your own.
PLURAL NOUN

You may find them _____, but your evil-genius dog will
ADJECTIVE

_____ them right up.
VERB

In the end, evil-genius dogs are as wonderful as non-evil-genius dogs. They are just more _____, and you are lucky to have one.
ADJECTIVE



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