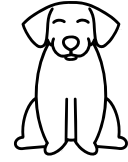




B2 Don't touch my dog, please!



Guided Reading

EXERCISE 1 READ THE FOLLOWING SITUATION AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Imagine that you are walking down the street when suddenly someone approaches you and touches your phone.

1. What do you do?
2. Are there any situations when you are fine with strangers approaching you?
3. Are there any situations when you are fine with strangers touching your belongings?

EXERCISE 2 READ THE BLOG INTRODUCTION AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Dogs are people magnets. When you're out for a walk, and your companion has an adorable furry face and is oozing charm, the dog enthusiasts that cross your path can't help but stop to say hello. Even grumpy dogs that bark at everyone can attract new friends. Not all situations are ideal for a meet and greet. We'll talk about some of these and offer advice on how to politely but firmly turn away strangers who want to pet your dog.

1. Have you ever been in this situation before? If yes, what did you do? If not, what would you do?
2. Do you know anyone who cannot stop themselves from touching strangers' dogs? Why do you think they behave in this way?

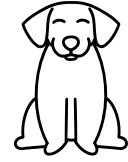
EXERCISE 3 READ THE LISTS OF REASONS WHY PEOPLE SHOULDN'T PET STRANGERS' DOGS.

- ___ *Some dogs get fearful, provoking an aggressive response.*
- ___ *The dog may be recovering.*
- ___ *The dog is leash reactive and in training.*
- ___ *It's a matter of good hygiene.*
- ___ *You'd rather not, thanks!*

1. Which ones do you agree with? Why?
2. Would you add any other reasons to this list?
3. Rank them in the order of importance from 1-5 (1 being the most important, and 5 being the least important).



B2 Don't touch my dog, please!



Guided Reading

EXERCISE 4 READ THE BLOG POST AND PUT THE TITLES FROM EXERCISE 3 THAT BEST MATCH EACH PARAGRAPH.

1.

It would be an understatement to say the COVID-19 pandemic gave everyone a good reminder to keep a safe distance. Though dogs don't usually catch our bugs and ailments, it's good to play it safe and avoid situations where your dog's fur may be a transfer station for germs. So if you're worried about the spread of sickness, it's OK to tell strangers not to pet your dog.

2.

If your furry friend is working on his leash manners and heel and obey commands, being greeted by his adoring fans can distract and excite him.

3.

If you're not feeling friendly today, you're under no obligation to be on ambassador duty when you're out with your dog.

4.

Some dogs get scared when someone new starts petting them, especially if they weren't given a chance to sniff them and decide if they want to interact. For small dogs, the stress can amplify when they're feeling dwarfed in the forest of tall human legs. Finally, dogs can feel threatened when a new person is leaning or bending over them, which is always a no-no.

Any of these situations can make even a friendly and outgoing dog feel scared or threatened, and that would provoke a defensive response. If the dog is moving away, it's time to put the brakes on the interaction. Otherwise, the situation can escalate to growling, snapping and biting.

5.

If the dog is healing from a recent surgery or injury, it can snap or bite at the hand that accidentally touches their sore spot.

Adapted from [NutriSource Blogs](#)

EXERCISE 5 THINK OF THREE WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN STOP PEOPLE FROM TOUCHING YOUR DOG.

1.

2.

3.

EXERCISE 6 READ THE SECOND PART OF THE BLOG AND CHECK IF ANY OF YOUR IDEAS APPEARED IN THE TEXT.

KEEP MOVING

When you're walking through the park or the neighbourhood, it's easy to tell when people want to stop and say hello to your pet — they'll be smiling and they may stop, in hopes you will too.

(1) __, position yourself between the new person and your dog, and just keep moving. A brief moment of eye contact and a polite hello are fine
(2) __, they'll get the message.

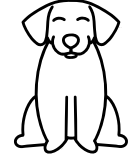
Page 2

GIVE CLEAR PHYSICAL SIGNALS

A simple "Do not pet!" sign will warn off most people. There are patches on the market you can glue to your dog's vest, and leash sleeves that can be positioned right above your dog. (3) __. There are many comfortable options that are humane and lightweight, while also providing a visual deterrent.



B2 Don't touch my dog, please!



Guided Reading

BE CLEAR AND STRAIGHTFORWARD

Telling people not to touch your dog can feel impolite (4) __, and they think your dog is pretty cute! And that's why we may fall back on mushy warnings that are meant to sound polite. But if you say, "Oh, my dog is skittish," or "He doesn't like new people," their response may very well be, "That doesn't really apply to me, because I'm great with dogs!" (5) __, especially when it comes to the things we love.

When you have mere seconds to stop someone from touching your dog, a straight-up warning will do a better job of getting the message across.

- You can take the polite-but-straightforward route. Something like, "Can't stop today, we're running late!"
- This is your family, so you're not under any obligation to supply reasons. You can keep it simple: "Don't pet my dog, please. Thanks!"

Adapted from [NutriSource Blogs](#)

EXERCISE 7 READ THE TEXT AGAIN AND FILL IN THE GAPS (1-5) WITH THE MISSING SENTENCES (A-E).

- A. *because they probably adore dogs just as much as you do*
- B. *but as you two power walk on by*
- C. *When your path approaches others, shorten the leash to keep better control of your dog*
- D. *After all, it's only human to believe we have above-average abilities*
- E. *Also, it's OK to have your dog wear a muzzle.*

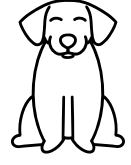
EXERCISE 8 LOOK AT THE UNDERLINED WORDS AND MATCH THEM WITH THE DEFINITIONS BELOW.

ooze ailment germ amplify dwarfed
growl power walk muzzle mushy skittish

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. _____: a covering put over an animal's nose and mouth to prevent it from biting | 6. _____: a quick walk as a form of aerobic exercise |
| 2. _____: an illness | 7. _____: a very small organism that causes disease |
| 3. _____: very small | 8. _____: a long, low sound, like the threatening sound made by a dog |
| 4. _____: to flow slowly out of something through a small opening | 9. _____: too emotional |
| 5. _____: nervous or easily frightened | 10. _____: to increase the size of something |



B2 Don't touch my dog, please!



Guided Reading

EXERCISE 9 IMAGINE THAT SOMEONE IS TRYING TO PET YOUR DOG WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. WRITE A POLITE BUT FIRM EXPLANATION OF WHY IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO APPROACH YOUR FURRY FRIEND.

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Teacher's notes

Exercise 1. Lead-in

6 mins

Read the imaginary situation about a stranger approaching your students and touching their phones. Elicit some of the students' reactions and feelings about this situation. Proceed by thinking of scenarios in which it would be acceptable to be approached by a stranger (without touching) and when it would be acceptable for a stranger to touch any of their belongings.

Exercise 2. Reading introduction

7 mins

Contrast this lead-in discussion with a blog post introduction about touching strangers' dogs. Start by asking if dogs can be called our 'belongings'. Discuss if students believe it is acceptable to approach people and interact with their dogs without asking for consent. Students share their experiences with strangers approaching their pets and how they responded at that time. Discuss if students know anyone who cannot stop themselves from touching dogs they don't know. Predict why people may feel the need to interact with animals they don't know.

Exercise 3. Pre-reading discussion

7 mins

Look at the list of reasons why people shouldn't touch strangers' dogs. Students work in pairs and discuss which ones they agree or disagree with. Think of other reasons that could be added to the list.

Students order the reasons from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important. Share the lists as a group and discuss students' orders.

Exercise 4. Reading Part 1

5 mins

Read five short paragraphs and put the reasons discussed in a previous activity above the corresponding paragraphs.

Answers:

- 1. It's a matter of good hygiene.*
- 2. The dog is leash reactive and in training.*
- 3. You'd rather not, thanks!*
- 4. Some dogs get fearful, provoking an aggressive response.*
- 5. The dog may be recovering.*

Exercise 5 + 6. Reading for gist

8 mins

It's time to think of ways in which students can politely but firmly tell someone not to approach their dogs. Put students into pairs or small groups and ask them to think of three ways in which they could tell someone not to pet their dogs. Share and compare the answers with the rest of the group.

Read the second part of the blog post and check if any ideas mentioned during the previous discussion appeared in the text.

Exercise 7. Reading for detail

5 mins

Read the second part of the text one more time and fill in the gaps with the missing sentences. Check and discuss the answers as needed.

Answers:

1C, 2B, 3E, 4A, 5D

Exercise 8. Vocabulary check

4 mins

Look at the list of vocabulary items (also underlined in the text). Match the words with their definitions.

Answers:

- 1. muzzle, 2. ailment, 3. dwarfed, 4. ooze, 5. skittish, 6. power walk, 7. germ, 8. growl, 9. mushy, 10. amplify*

TOTAL TIME: ~55 mins

Teacher's notes

Exercise 9. Writing and discussion

10 mins

Ask students to imagine that someone is trying to approach them to pet their dog. Students write a polite but firm explanation of why it's not a good idea to do so.

Share the explanations with the rest of the group and vote for the best one.

Error correction

3 mins

Provide speaking feedback.