

UNDERSTANDING DOGS

STARTER

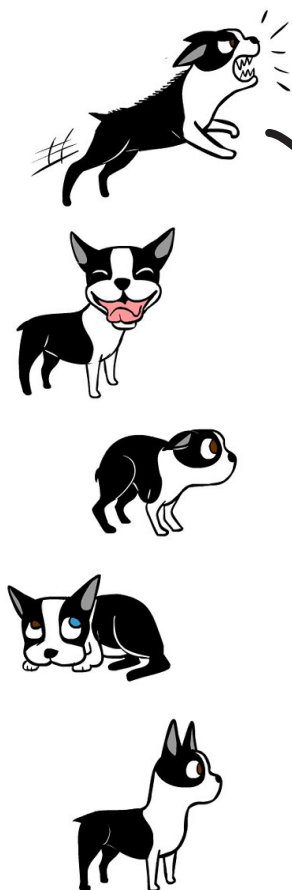
Turn to your partner and show them you are feeling happy without saying a word... Next, show them you are scared. Remember, you can't say a word!

How did you know how your partner was feeling?

We learn so much about how the people around us are feeling by reading their **body language** and dogs are no different. Dogs cannot use speech, sign language or Makaton to tell us how they are, so they show us with their bodies instead!

MAIN LEARNING

Let's be dog behaviour detectives! **Can you match the dog with what they are trying to tell you?** The first one has been done for you.



I am anxious

I am happy

I am suspicious

I am angry

I need space

Phew! Shake it off!

When I shake like this, I am shaking off any stress I'm feeling. You might also see me doing this shake as a little break from play if I get over excited.



What do you do to help you cool off and keep calm?

DEVELOPING OUR LEARNING

The best dog behaviour detectives read a dog's **body language** and gather all the clues so they can work out how to make their companion feel relaxed and safe around them.

Partner up, label yourselves A and B and follow the steps below.

1

A: Show with your body language that you are feeling happy. You have a big smile on your face and you haven't got a care in the world!

2

B: Reach your arm out and offer your hand to A.

3

A: Do you want to hold their hand?

Let's try another:

1

B: Show with your body that you are feeling scared. You need space and you really don't want anyone coming to close to you.

2

A: Reach your arm out and offer your hand to B.

3

B: Do you want to hold their hand?

In the first scenario, A might have accepted the hand as they were feeling happy and content, but also they just might not have felt like it!

Even if you are happy and having a fun time, you still might not want to hold your friends hand.

Do you think that a happy and content looking dog would always want to be stroked and petted?

In the second scenario, B might have felt even more threatened by the hand coming towards them. B wanted space and their friend hasn't read their body language!

Simply holding out your hand is a gentle greeting, but could still really frighten a nervous or angry dog.

Do you think that a nervous or angry dog would want to be petted or cuddled?

Why not try following the steps above and acting out some different emotions a dog may be feeling! **Can your partner guess what the emotion is?**



CONCLUSION

Lily thinks:

All dogs want to be petted and cuddled. If they're feeling sad it will help them feel better... right?

Who do you think is correct and why?

Amari thinks:

You need to look at a dog's body language to know if it wants to be petted, and you should always ask its owner too.

Remember, the best dog detectives read the dog's body language but also ask a certain someone before making any moves. **Who should you ask and what could you say?** If in doubt, just admire the perfect pooch from afar!



See overleaf to learn in even more detail about dog body language!

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LEARN MORE

You can learn a lot from a dog's body language – where his ears move, what his tongue is doing, how his tail is moving and many other things.

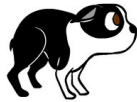
Next time you see a dog, why not check out how many different behaviours you can recognise. Try and figure out how they're feeling by watching the ways they move their body.



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



CURIOUS
head tilt



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



HAPPY
(or hot)



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"MMMM...."



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



**"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"**