

Perfectly Pawsible Basic commands defined

Command Name	Basics	Explained
	The command you give your dog really doesn't matter to your dog. Honest. If you want to teach your animal that the word "cucumber" means to SIT, the dog doesn't care. However cute that may seem, the next time your babysitter tries to get your dog to sit, she may think you have the dumbest animal in the world.	Consistency and common sense are the rules here. Like any human command, your dog <i>would</i> learn CUCUMBER means SIT if you repeat it often enough. But common sense says to use common commands that others would assume. More complex "Tricks" can use anything you want, cause your dog will likely only hear that command from you. For the expected, simple commands, keep them common and simple. One word commands beat two words. "SIT DOWN" is confusing to your dog. It's two commands. Either have it SIT or DOWN.
Sit	The dog's rear end is on the ground, centered between rear legs in a natural, balanced position. The dog should not slouch to one side or another. Front legs are extended straight to the ground. This one is easy, the dog is SITing.	Sit is probably the first, most basic commands that dogs learn. It's also one of the more natural positions for a dog. Who hasn't seen a dog SIT?
Come	Wherever the dog is (more than two feet away), "COME" should return the dog to some position near you (within two feet or so). Better to create a perfect (known/understood) position for the dog to COME to- say the dog should always return to your left side.	A "natural" job for a dog. In the wild, when a pack leader SPEAKs the correct bark, the pack knows to COME. The COME command will make your life with your pet pleasant and could save it's life.
Down (lay)	The dog's rear legs are folded under or beside it's rear end, it's stomach is on the ground and the front legs are extended out away from the dog.	A "natural" position for most animals. Maybe a tad harder to teach for some dogs than sit, but still an easy one that's easily understood by the animal.
Break (go play, ??)	BREAK is a release for your animal to know it's okay to go play, wander away.	Most likely, BREAK is used after one of three commands; SIT, DOWN or PLACE. As explained on STAY, we expect your dog to maintain those commands until released.
Off	Wherever the dog is, get OFF of it.	OFF the couch. OFF dad's recliner. OFF Aunt Judy. Our first inclination is to say, "DOWN". While it may accomplish the goal, consistency in commands is crucial.
Place	PLACE is a command like, "stand <i>here</i> ". We use PLACE to help the dog know where we expect it to stand. Normally, it's a very defined area (small enough to just contain the dog's body) so the dog understands that PLACE is where you expect it to stand.	PLACE is beginning the more advanced commands. After using PLACE to the point your dog understands it well, you'll be able to point to a chair and say, "PLACE" and expect your dog to jump on the chair and stay there until you give your BREAK. After you PLACE your dog, you can also use SIT or DOWN
Speak	On the SPEAK command, your dog should bark.	Believe it or not, some dogs are not natural barkers. While they will bark, it may take some barking of your own to get your dog to bark on command.
Shake	While in the SIT position, your dog will lift one paw in order to 'shake' your hand.	There are easy variations in this theme. After SHAKE, you may want to teach your dog, "Right Paw/Left Paw", or "other one." We like motorcycles, so teach our dog, "Brake" and "Clutch".
Move	MOVE from where you are to somewhere else!	This one is really pretty easy. Your dog is sitting in front of the refrigerator. Makes it hard to open the door. After saying MOVE often enough (as you gently open the door) your dog will get this one easily.

Drop	Whatever your dog has in it's mouth (by your direction or the dogs curiosity) should immediately be dropped.	When combined with BRING/FETCH this is a powerful command to teach your dog to BRING you items it learns the names of. This is the second command that has the potential to save your dogs life. Learning that DROP means <i>now</i> will get that Lego out of his mouth and save you a trip to the vet.
Heel	While walking, running, the dog maintains a position at your side.	HEEL will keep your dog with you. We prefer to teach your dog to HEEL on your left side, with it's shoulder approximately at your knee. When walking your dog, this position also puts you between your dog and traffice helping it be safer and more secure.
Cage (bed, box, Kennel, etc)	This list of commands tells your dog to go to or into a certain PLACE.	Your dog will quickly learn that "BED" means go PLACE/DOWN on its pillow. CAGE will tell it to go inside the cage/kennel/crate. Again, the name isn't important, consistency is. Everyone in <i>your</i> pack must call the object the same thing!
Bring (get, fetch)	Go get a given object (retrieve) and BRING it here.	We want your dog to BRING the object to you, then DROP or GIVE it to you on command

Commands I really don't use much if at all

Wait	stand/stay	Many trainers use WAIT to teach your dog to WAIT at a door when opened. While useful and certainly effective, when your dog is waiting at the door, you normally want it to SIT or remain in one PLACE, don't you? So just have your dog SIT or PLACE before you open the door. When used at a door to hold your dog, it is important to consider what is next.
Hold	HOLD teaches your dog to gently keep a given object in it's mouth without leaving teeth marks. Think of a water dog like a lab retrieving a bird.	This command teaches your dog to hold objects without damaging them. The object may get slobber all over it, but you can teach a dog to HOLD your cell phone, remote control, or newspaper.
Give (out)	While this is very similar to DROP, GIVE means to release the object into your hand. The dog is HOLDing the paper, then GIVE it to you on command, not DROP it on the floor.	Another slightly more advanced command set for your dog. After learning to HOLD something, your dog need to know that GIVE means to allow you to easily remove the object, not just dropped unceremoniously somewhere.
Quiet	This command shoud QUIET any noise being vocalized by your dog.	Wheather barking or whining, QUIET should command your dog to stop and be, well- QUIET. I don't use this. OFF will work just fine!
Stay (Wait)	Quite frankly, we feel "STAY is an unecessary command. When we command a dog to sit, we expect it to sit until released. Same with DOWN or PLACE. We don't care that you teach your dog to STAY, it's a good command. But we feel your dog should STAY as a matter of good manners.	While STAY is a "natural" thing for a dog to do, the Pack Leader made junior SIT or DOWN and expected Junior to STAY until Pack Leader released it Think about it, when you command your dog to SIT, you likley didn't just want it to SIT for 4 seconds then return to what it was doing anyhow, right?
With Me	WITH ME is a 'comfort' command that your dog will get. It means just that; stay near me.	WITH ME is more of a comman used in the dog park, open area, whatever. The command is repeated until you are comfortable with how close your dog is to where you are. Say WITH ME in one area and your dog may come within 50 feet of you and you'll be comfortable. Say it again and your dog should come closer, say 20 feet. Your dog will 'get' that you just want it not so far away, but it still has free will to play and discover. If you want your dog at your side <i>now</i> , use COME.