

# 15

## Furry companions



Level:



**Let's think!**

1. What is a therapy dog?
2. What are some common traits of therapy dogs?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



**Characters:**

Rosie—Dog owner

Mr Hui—Dog handler

Dr Chan—Examiner

Violet—Sick girl



**Scene 1 At the dog training centre**

**Mr Hui:** Good morning, everyone. We are glad that you have enrolled in this training programme and hope that this will be the start of bigger and brighter things to come for you and your dog. In the process, you can strengthen the bond with your dog while also giving back to the community. 5

**Rosie:** *(Looking at her dog)* You'll bring joy to others for sure, Pizza!

**Mr Hui:** To effectively interact with people, therapy dogs must be calm and gentle in public places like nursing homes and hospitals. For the owners, you need to practise making your cues clear, consistent and effective. At the end of this course, there will be a test. We want to find out whether the owners can apply the skills they have learnt and to observe if their dogs remain calm and focused when they face distractions in stressful situations. 10  
15

**Scene 2 On test day, at the dog training centre**

**Rosie:** We've performed well during practice. Let's give our best at the test!

**Dr Chan:** Hello, Rosie. I'm Dr Chan. My job is to see if Pizza will make a qualified therapy dog. Now, would you please get into the lift with Pizza?

**Rosie:** Okay. *(Pointing at the lift)* Pizza, walk. *(After they get into the lift)* Sit. *(Murmuring)* Gosh, it's so crowded. Pizza, stay calm! 20

*(As the lift door opens, Rosie and Pizza walk out of the lift last. Dr Chan raises his eyebrows and pets Pizza's head.)* 25



**Dr Chan:** Next, please walk around the room with Pizza. *(After Rosie and Pizza take a few steps) Stop, please.*

**Rosie:** *(Mumbling)* Oh dear! There's your favourite treat on the floor! Be good and don't get distracted.

*(Dr Chan writes something on his clipboard when Pizza leaves the treat alone.)*

30

### Scene 3 At the children's hospital

**Violet:** *(Crying loudly)* Get away! I don't want a needle in my arm!

**Rosie:** Hi! I'm Rosie, and this is my dog Pizza. *(Pizza approaches Violet and nuzzles her hand.)*  
Would you like to play with him after the injection?

**Violet:** *(Stops crying)* Really? But the needle tip looks so scary.

**Rosie:** You can do it. Pizza is here with you!

*(When Violet takes the injection, Pizza rests his chin on her lap during the whole process. It takes the child's mind off the injection.)*

*(After spending some time with Violet, Rosie and Pizza continue to visit other patients in the hospital, spreading comfort and joy wherever they go.)*

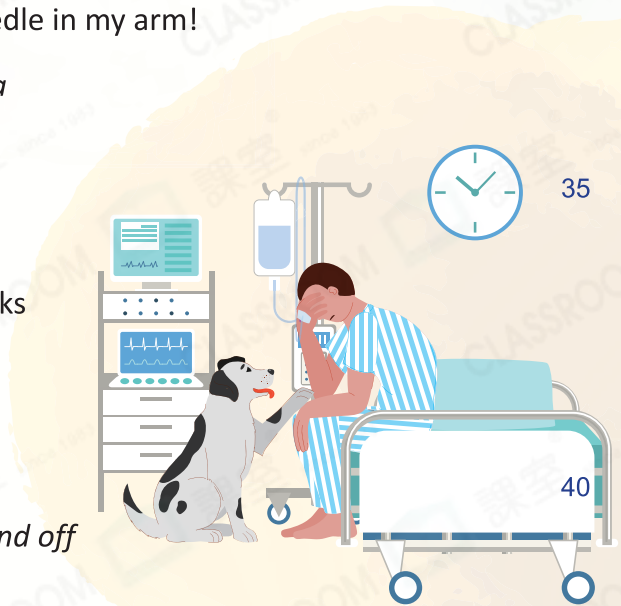
**Rosie:** I'm so proud of you, Pizza. I'm gratified by the comfort we've given to people in need!

35

40

45

~430 words



### Looking into Grammar

Use **gerunds** after certain verbs, e.g. **consider, imagine, practise**, after prepositions or after adjective-preposition phrases, e.g. **afraid of, interested in**.

Use **to-infinitives** after certain verbs, e.g. **decide, hope, agree**.

✓ For the owners, you **need to practise** (~~practising~~) **making** (~~to make~~) your cues clear, consistent and effective.

✓ We **want to find** (~~finding~~) out whether the owners can apply the skills they have learnt and **to observe** (~~observing~~) if their dogs remain calm and focused ...

? Underline verbs in Scene 3 which are followed by *to-infinitives*. Circle a verb and an adjective-preposition phrase in Scene 3 which are followed by gerunds.

Read the text and answer questions 1–13. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (20 marks)

1. Who does 'you' (line 5) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Scene 1. What does Rosie hope to achieve with her dog?

She wants Pizza to serve as \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Find a phrase in Scene 1 which means 'improve the relationship'.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of the following is mentioned in Scene 1?

- A. how to give the dog clear cues
- B. the dos and don'ts of dog training
- C. the purpose of the test after the training
- D. how to deal with stressful situations

A      B      C      D  
        

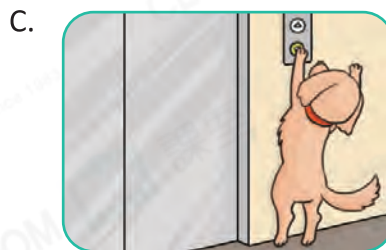
5. Read lines 18–25. Which of the following is TRUE?

- A. Pizza stays calm in a tight space.
- B. Pizza feels uneasy under pressure.
- C. Pizza begins to get increasingly irritated.
- D. Pizza responds slowly to cues.

5 What does Dr Chan's facial expression mean?

A      B      C      D  
        

6. Which of the following pictures does NOT show a part of the test?



A      B      C      D  
        

7. State ONE factor in Scene 2 that may account for Pizza's success in the test.

Pizza follows \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Find TWO words in Scene 2 which mean 'speaking very quietly'.

(2 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of the following pictures shows the process of Violet having the injection?

A.



C.



B.



D.



- A      B      C      D

10. In Scene 3, what is the reward for Violet to receive the injection?

---

11. What is the main idea of the play script?

- A. to explain why some dogs can pass the qualification test  
 B. to entertain readers with an animal story  
 C. to describe the hardship faced by a sick child  
 D. to show how animal therapy can help people

- A      B      C      D

12. Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact or an opinion.

12 A fact is something that can be proven, whereas an opinion is someone's feeling(s).

	Fact	Opinion
(i) Both the dogs and the owners need to take the test.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Pizza is well-trained and well-suited for the role.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Some people experience sharp and intense pain during injections.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) It is pleasing to see that Pizza can help people in need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Based on the text, complete the summary by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct. The word may not appear in the text.

Rosie (i) \_\_\_\_\_ in a training programme with her dog, Pizza. At the end of the course, they took a test and Pizza (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ well. He therefore became a (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ therapy dog. Now, they make regular (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ to a children's hospital, bringing joy and comfort to the sick children.

# Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



THEME



A. Complete the discussion forum comments below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

**Adjective:** qualified

**Verb:** approach enrol

**Noun:** community cue injection lap therapy training treat

← → ↻ 🏠
Let's Talk! > Pets > Cats

## Help! What should I do with a stray kitten?

**#1 John Lee**

Earlier tonight, I saw a kitten on the street when I was walking home. As I (1) \_\_\_\_\_ it, it was evident that it was in poor health. It was so skinny. I held it on my (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and it was still trembling, so I brought it home. I tried to feed it some food but it didn't eat any. What should I do with the kitten?

**#2 Kitty Chan**

You should take it to a vet immediately. This kitten obviously needs treatment and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to bounce back to good health. Also, check with the vet whether the kitten needs any vaccine (4) \_\_\_\_\_, so that it is protected against diseases.

**#3 Sally Wong**

Kittens need lots of care. You can (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on a course taught by (6) \_\_\_\_\_ pet experts. The course provides hands-on (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for new cat owners. It equips them with the knowledge and skills to properly care for their cats. I believe it will be really helpful to you.

**#4 Alex Pang**


If the kitten is trembling, it is a / an (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that you need to keep it warm NOW! Place some blankets and heat pads around it to make it feel warm and comfortable.

**#5 Mary Ip**

If it's possible, connect with other cat owners in your (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Join a social media group, for example. In case you need help, you can get support from them.

**#6 Cathy Chiu**

Make sure you buy special formulas for kittens. Never feed them regular milk. Also, do not feed kittens (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as they are too young for them.



B. Complete the crossword puzzle below with the given words.

### Pet care tips

adopt

aquarium

brush

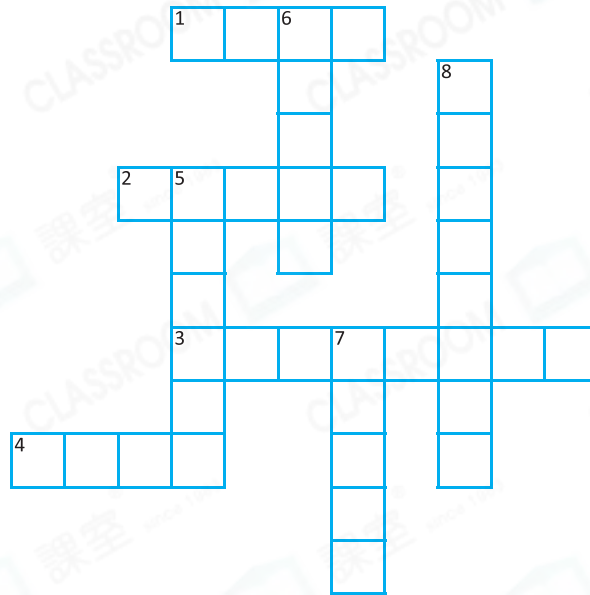
grooming

leash

reward

shed

walk



#### Across:

- It is important to go out and \_\_\_\_\_ your dog every day to keep them healthy.
- Regularly \_\_\_\_\_ your rabbit's fur to keep it clean.
- I enjoy watching fish swim around in a / an \_\_\_\_\_.
- Combing and bathing can help your cat or dog \_\_\_\_\_ excess fur and maintain a healthy coat.

#### Down:

- Giving small bits of food as \_\_\_\_\_ for good behaviour is an effective way to teach your pet.
- When taking your dog outside, always keep it on a / an \_\_\_\_\_ so that it cannot run away.
- Many people choose to \_\_\_\_\_ unwanted pets, giving them a loving home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ your pet helps to keep it clean, so it does not become a home for ticks and fleas.

## Writing

### Keeping a pet

Write about your favorite pet. Describe the type of pet you have or would like to have. Write an article about pet-keeping in about 150 words.