



## Beginning Homework • Week 5

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### Stay (Distance)

Congratulations! You have reached the final step in teaching your dog to stay. This week we are working on distance, or how far we can move away from our dog. Start by saying “stay”, and give him the hand signal. Take one very small step backwards and immediately return to him and reward him if he stayed in place. Try again with two steps backwards, return to him, reward, and release. Resist the temptation to get too far away from him while teaching him this. If you want your dog to have a solid stay he must be confident about what you are asking. Be sure you are walking all the way back to him nine out of ten times to release him. Calling him out of a stay will get him too anxious about coming to you and he is more likely to break his stay. Also, be relaxed while practicing. If you move too slow or get tense, he may get nervous and want to follow.

**Goal:** My dog can sit and stay while I walk five feet away from him in our house.

### Wait

Wait and stay are two different commands. Stay means don't move a muscle, and wait means you must pause before entering or exiting a threshold. Wait comes in handy when you don't want your dog rushing past you through doorways, gates, on the stairs, and in the car. Teaching him to wait is another great lesson in self-control. Start by having your dog on leash, standing at a doorway. Slowly start opening the door. If your dog starts to rush past you say “uh-uh”, and close the door. (Don't smash his nose!) Repeat until your dog pauses and the door is open, then release him, and the reward is going through the door. As he gets better you can add the cue “wait” before opening the door.

**Goal:** My dog can wait at the front door for five seconds on the first try.

### Come (Recalls Past Distractions)

If your recall practice is going well, try adding a few distractions. Try placing some toys or objects (suitcases seem to be a big distraction) he hasn't seen before in your house or yard, and try calling him past them. The bigger distraction you are contending with, the closer you need to be to him and the better the rewards should be. When he comes, spend 10-20 seconds petting and praising him while giving him tiny pieces of treats. Remember to always be happy when he comes to you, even if you are frustrated with him.

**Goal:** My dog comes when called past a new toy or object.

### Leave It

Keep up the practice and set up “real-life” scenarios. Before you head out for your daily walk put a few items such as milk cartons, banana peels, or food wrappers in your driveway or in front of your house. As your dog starts to approach the object say “leave-it” and don't get any closer. Stand there and wait for him to look at you before saying “yes” and giving him a treat. The more you practice this the more likely he will leave things that are dangerous for him the first time you ask him to. This may save his life one

day when you drop your dinner scattering broken glass along with tempting food, or when you discover a hazardous chemical such as anti-freeze along your next walk.

## Practice Everywhere!

Practice at many different locations so your dog knows the rules apply everywhere and start putting the commands together! The opportunities are endless! Check off the goals below and receive one extra Lucky Bone per goal.

- Goal:** My dog can sit and watch at the doorway while I attach his leash and wait before exiting the door.
- Goal:** My dog can walk on a loose leash to the park and leave items of trash that are littering the ground.
- Goal:** My dog can stay at a curb until he is released and come away from an approaching dog when called.

*Bring your homework back next week with all the goals checked off and receive five extra Lucky Bones!*

***Graduation it next week so don't forget your trick and Lucky Bones!***