EPISODE 371

Dogs and Their Superpower

Full transcript · mini-story · vocabulary review

In the previous episode, we talked about
how dogs understand our emotions
and how they communicate without words.
Today, I want to continue that conversation, but from a different angle.
Instead of focusing on emotions, we're going to look at how dogs experience the world, how they gather information, and why they naturally look to humans for guidance.
Because dogs don't just feel with us.
They observe, analyze, and cooperate with us in ways that are easy to overlook.
And once you understand this, many everyday behaviors suddenly make sense.

How Dogs Experience The World

Humans experience the world mainly through sight.
Dogs don't.
For dogs, the most important sense is smell.
A dog's nose is not just stronger than ours.
It works in a completely different way.
Dogs have millions more scent receptors than humans, and their brains are built to interpret smells with incredible precision. For them, smell is not just information — it's context.
Through smell, dogs can detect:
stress
fear
changes in the body
illness
That's why some dogs can be trained to detect medical conditions such as diabetes or even certain types of cancer.
This isn't logical intelligence in the human sense.
It's sensory intelligence.
Dogs read the world in layers we simply don't have access to.
What we see, they smell.
What we ignore, they analyze.
Smell is their language.

Why Dogs Look To Us For Help

Another fascinating difference between dogs and other animals is how they solve problems.
When a dog faces something unfamiliar, it often looks at a human.
This is not random.
Wolves, for example, usually try to solve problems independently. Dogs don't. Dogs evolved to work with humans.
They seek:
eye contact
direction

reassurance
They want to know how we interpret the situation.
This is cooperation, not weakness.
And this is why training works best when it’s calm and encouraging.
Fear can create obedience.
But safety creates trust.
When a dog feels safe, learning happens faster, and the relationship becomes stronger.
Dogs don’t blindly follow humans.
They cooperate.
They collect information through their senses, and then they check with us.
They want to know:
“Is this something I should worry about?”
That’s not obedience.
That’s partnership.
Dogs never stop learning.
Puppies learn.
Adult dogs learn.
Older dogs learn.
As long as there is connection, learning continues.
Dogs are deeply social beings.
They thrive on predictability, emotional consistency, and companionship.
When you put all of this together, something becomes clear.
Dogs are not loyal because they are trained to be.
They are loyal because their biology is built around bonding and cooperation.
And maybe that’s why living with a dog feels so unique.
They don’t need to dominate the world.
They just want to understand it — with us.

Mini-Story

Speaking Practice

Answer the questions aloud with short and quick responses. Repeat the Mini-Story several times to improve your speaking and listening.

Let’s start!

Anna has a dog named Bella, who takes her role as neighborhood protector very seriously and believes danger can appear at any moment.

Does Anna have a dog or a cat?
She has a dog.

Is Bella relaxed about her responsibilities?
No, she takes them very seriously.

Does Bella believe danger is always possible?
Yes, she clearly believes that.

Every afternoon, Anna and Bella go for a long walk through the neighborhood, following the same route they always follow.

Do Anna and Bella go for a walk every afternoon?
Yes, they do.

Do they follow a different route every day?
No, they usually follow the same route.

Is Bella familiar with this neighborhood?
Yes, she knows it very well.

One afternoon, while they are walking calmly down the street, Bella suddenly stops and refuses to take another step.

Are they walking calmly or running?
They are walking calmly.

Does Bella continue walking normally?
No, she suddenly stops.

Does Bella refuse to move?
Yes, she refuses to move.

Bella is staring at something in the distance with complete seriousness, as if she has discovered a major threat.

Is Bella staring at something unimportant?
No, she is completely focused.

Does she look relaxed or serious?
She looks very serious.

Does Bella think this is a big problem?
Yes, she clearly does.

Bella notices a plastic bag moving slowly in the wind, changing direction unpredictably and making strange sounds.

Does Bella notice a tree or a plastic bag?
She notices a plastic bag.

Is the plastic bag staying in one place?
No, it's moving unpredictably.

Does the bag look suspicious to Bella?
Yes, it looks extremely suspicious.

Bella immediately lifts her nose, smells the air very carefully, and takes one step back, just to be safe.

Does Bella smell the air carelessly?
No, she smells it very carefully.

Does Bella move closer to the bag?
No, she takes a step back.

Is Bella being cautious?
Yes, she is being very cautious.

Then Bella looks at Anna with wide eyes, silently asking for help, support, and an official decision.

Does Bella look at the plastic bag or at Anna?
She looks at Anna.

Does Bella want to decide everything alone?
No, she wants help.

Does Bella trust Anna's judgment?
Yes, she does.

Anna stops, looks at the plastic bag for a moment, and then calmly says, "Bella, it's just a plastic bag."

Does Anna panic?
No, she stays calm.

Does Anna think it's a dangerous object?
No, she thinks it's just a plastic bag.

Does Anna speak calmly or nervously?
She speaks calmly.

Even after hearing this, Bella does not move immediately and keeps watching the bag carefully, just in case it suddenly attacks.

Does Bella immediately relax?
No, she does not.

Does Bella completely trust the plastic bag?
No, she definitely does not.

Does Bella stay alert?
Yes, she stays very alert.

After a few seconds, Bella slowly decides to follow Anna again, but she walks in a wide circle around the plastic bag.

Does Bella walk directly past the bag?
No, she walks around it.

Does Bella keep a safe distance?
Yes, she keeps a safe distance.

Is Bella still protecting the neighborhood?
Yes, she absolutely is.

As they walk away, Bella turns her head one last time to make sure the plastic bag hasn't followed them.

Does Bella forget about the bag immediately?
No, she does not.

Does Bella check one last time?
Yes, she checks one last time.

Does Bella take her job seriously until the very end?
Yes, she does.

All right. That's the end of the story. Listen to this Mini-Story several times to improve your speaking.

Review

Vocabulary from This Episode

Review the most useful words and expressions before listening again.

01 **scent receptor** a part of the nose that detects and processes smells.	05 **cooperation** working together toward a shared result.
02 **detect** notice or discover something that is difficult to see or sense.	06 **partnership** a relationship in which two sides work together.
03 **sensory intelligence** the ability to understand the world through the senses.	07 **companionship** the comfort and friendship provided by another person or animal.
04 **reassurance** words or behavior that help someone feel safer and calmer.	

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