

Stay!

Have the dog sit at heel. Give the command "Stay." As you say "Stay," bring your right hand in front of the dog's face, as in the picture. Step immediately in front of your dog leading with your right foot. If the dog moves, put him right back in position. Eventually more farther and farther away until you are six feet away (at the end of your leash).



Stand-Stay

Tell your dog to heel, take two steps, stop and tell him to stand, holding your hand under his belly. Put your right hand in front of your dog's face and tell him to stay! Start to walk away. If he starts to follow you, touch him just inside his hind leg. This will cause him to freeze. Say "Stay" again. When he seems steady, drop your hand and step away as shown. This is a great showmanship command also.



Down!

Put the dog in sitting position at your left heel. Kneel by the dog. For a medium or large dog, lift the right leg in your right hand and push down on his left shoulder with your left hand. Say "Down," with your right hand, palm open and slightly above the dog's head. At the same time give the hand signal for "Down." For large dogs or dogs that do not respect the down command, hold the dog's muzzle with your left hand, turn the dog's head gently to the left with your right placed directly behind the dog's shoulder blades and push down while saying "Down".



Come!

Put the dog in sitting position at your left heel, then command to "Stay." Walk away, leading with your right foot. At the end of the leash, turn and say "Chester, come." As he comes, move backward quickly and gather in the leash until he is in front of you. Say, "Sit." If your dog is slow at coming or does not respond on first call, try using a treat. Show the dog the treat while you call and give him the treat as soon as he is sitting squarely in front of you.



Finish

The finish and release are important commands. They tell the dog that only you decide when the lesson is over. Have the dog sit in front of you and command, "Finish." If he just sits there, pull him around your right side as your right leg takes a huge step backward. Then switch the leash behind your back into your other hand and bring him up to your left leg. At the same time, your right leg comes back even with the left. Your dog can "swing" by moving from sitting in front of you to your left side, turning around facing front and sitting squarely by your left leg. This method works better with small dogs than large ones. Praise him. The release is simply saying "OK" at the end of your session. It tells him school is out and recess can start.

