



The three basic commands

“COME”

You may need a long lead with this one:

- Say the puppy's name first, to get their attention and then the command, “Come”
- If your puppy responds and does come, praise him/her and then give them a treat
- Repeat several times.
- If your puppy starts to ignore you, attach the lead and reel the puppy in towards you and again praise and treat
- Always use an encouraging tone of voice, because if you use a threatening tone your puppy will prefer to not come to you.

“SIT”

“Sit” is a little more difficult because you first have to teach your puppy what “Sit” means:

- Hold a treat just above your puppy's nose and head. As this grabs their attention, they will look up at the treat.
- When they look up, move the treat very slowly further over their head
- As your puppy follows, their rear end may lower a little
- As this happens, put some gentle pressure over your puppy's rear, gently push them to the floor and say the command, “Sit”
- As soon as your puppy sits, offer praise and give them the treat
- Repeat this several times
- With persistence, you won't need to put pressure on pup's posterior and eventually they'll respond to just the verbal command.

“STAY”

Once your puppy has mastered the art of “Sit”, then you can teach them to stay:

- Stand in front of your puppy when he or she is sitting and give the command, “Stay”. A good visual cue for this one is using your hand in a 'stop' action
- Take a couple of steps back, say the command again and hold up your hand
- Return to your puppy immediately, praise and reward them for staying
- Be sure to present the reward to your puppy while they are still sitting
- Gradually take more steps away from your puppy, and then work on increasing the amount of time that you are asking them to “Stay”
- It will probably take several days to weeks of daily training to get pup to stay for more than a couple of minutes.

