

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

Speak With Me About Pets

Dear English Learner,

Get ready to speak confidently with these common English phrases and questions about pets. I recommend reading this worksheet out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using the vocabulary. Thanks so much for learning English with me. You rock!

Your teacher,

Vanessa

Common Vocabulary About Pets

Describe Yourself

Animal lover: *someone who loves all animals*

Ever since I visited the zoo as a child, I have been an **animal lover**.

Cat/dog/etc. Person: *someone who specifically likes cats more than dogs or dogs more than cats*

I am a **cat person**, but I like to play with my friend's dog.

Allergic: *if your eyes get red, you have difficulty breathing, and your nose starts to run when you are around cats, you are allergic to cats*

My friend is **allergic** to dogs, but she takes medicine so that she can still be around them.

Describe Your Pet

NOTE: *In English, we refer to a pet as “he” or “she” if the animal is a pet. Sometimes we say “it,” but it sounds more like a wild animal. If you don’t know if the pet is male or female, you can just say “he.”*

Breed: *the specific type of cat/dog/horse/etc.*

The Maine Coon is a large **breed** of domestic cat.

A Rescue: *pets that are adopted from the animal shelter*

My cats are both **rescues**. We got them from the animal shelter.

Mutt: *when you don’t know what mix of breeds an animal is; usually for dogs*

The dog we adopted is a **mutt**. He's one-of-a-kind!

Fur/Coat: *the hair of animals*

My cat’s **fur** is so soft!/ After a bath, my dog has a silky **coat**!

Wild: *animals that exist free in nature, they aren’t kept as pets*

Lions, tigers and bears are **wild**.

Stray: *living on the street with no home*

He was a **stray** before we got him.

Domesticated: *animals that are kept as pets or are used by humans in some way*

Horses, cows, chickens, cats and dogs are all **domesticated** animals.

Friendly: *the temperament or attitude of a pet*

My cat is very **friendly**, she loves to meet new people!

Describe Pet Care

Cage/Crate/Kennel: *the structure used to keep an animal contained*

My sister keeps her ferret in a **cage** in her room.

Collar and Tag: *a strap or band that goes around an animal's neck*

The **tag** on my dog's **collar** has my phone number on it, so that if he runs away, whoever finds him can call me.

Lead/Leash: *a rope or other material used to keep an animal from running away*

I saw a woman at the beach who had her cat on a **leash**!

Vet (Veterinarian): *a doctor who takes care of animals*

My friend took her sick hamster to the **vet**, but now he's all better.

Fetch: *when you throw something and an animal brings it back for you to throw again*

My sister's cat loves to play **fetch** with a toy mouse.

To Pet: *to stroke an animal softly*

The pets at the animal shelter love to be **pet**./ The dog likes when you **pet** his tummy.

Common questions about pets

Do you have any pets?

When I was a kid we had a dog, but now I have a couple of cats.

What kind is he?

He's a lab mix. We got him from the shelter. [lab = labrador retriever]

What's his name?

FEMALE: *Bella, Luna, Lucy, Daisy, Coco*

MALE: *Max, Buddy, Teddy, Rocky, Duke*

Is he friendly?

Yes, you can pet him.

He's kind of sensitive right now, so it would be best not to pet him.

How long have you had him?

I've had Max for about ten years.

What made you decide to get that breed?

I know that labs are family-friendly dogs.

Sample conversation

Vanessa: Hi, Dan! Is that your dog? I thought you were a **cat person**.

Dan: Hey, Vanessa. I'm an **animal lover**, but Fluffy's not mine. I'm walking him for my friend.

Vanessa: Oh, I gotcha. Is he **friendly**? Can I pet him?

Dan: Yes, he's very friendly! You can pet him, but watch out--he drools.

Vanessa: Good to know. I've never had a dog but I think I'll stick with my non-drooling cats. Good boy, Fluffy!

Dan: I'm gonna walk him to the park to play **fetch**, wanna come?

Vanessa: Sure!

Let's speak together!

Vanessa: Hi! I didn't know you had a pet! What kind is he?

You: _____.

Vanessa: Interesting! How long have you had him?

You: _____.

Vanessa: That's so nice! I've been thinking about getting one, too. What do you like to do with him?

You: _____.

Vanessa: Thanks for your help and good talking to you!

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question.

Can you tell me what kind of pet you have (or want to have)?

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