

Before you watch

- 1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.
- 1 Do you know anyone who is blind or partially sighted?
 - 2 If so, do you know how they get around?
 - 3 Do you know what a guide dog does? Have you ever seen one?

Comprehension check

- 2 **▶ Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.**
- 1 What did Louis Braille invent?
 - a a new language
 - b a way for blind people to read
 - c a way to teach blind people
 - 2 The DVD clip shows an example of braille
 - a in a book.
 - b on a sign.
 - c on a computer.
 - 3 The DVD clip shows a dog learning how to
 - a climb stairs.
 - b read braille.
 - c cross the road.
- 3 **▶ Watch again. Are the sentences true or false?**
- 1 There are 285 million blind people in the world. **true / false**
 - 2 Louis Braille was born blind. **true / false**
 - 3 Despite being blind, Braille still went to school. **true / false**
 - 4 Helen Keller became involved in politics and teaching. **true / false**
 - 5 Blind people in Britain recently said that the biggest problem they had was making friends. **true / false**
 - 6 The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association teaches dogs to help blind people. **true / false**
- 4 **▶ Watch again. Complete the sentences with the numbers below. There are two extra numbers.**
- 4,800 50,000 30,000 200,000 400,000 8.1 million 39 million 246 million
- 1 There are around _____ partially sighted people in the world.
 - 2 In the UK there are approximately _____ blind or partially sighted people.
 - 3 There are _____ dogs in Britain.
 - 4 The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has provided around _____ blind and partially sighted people with dogs since it began in 1931.
 - 5 There are _____ guide dog owners in the UK today.
 - 6 It costs around £ _____ to train and care for a guide dog.

Round up

- 5 **SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the question.
- Would you like to volunteer to train a guide dog? Why? / Why not?

Vocabulary

6 RECYCLE Complete the sentences with the verbs below.

admitted encouraged insisted mentioned refused suggested

- 1 My parents have always _____ me to do my best at school.
- 2 Even though Christina wanted to stay at home, Robin _____ on going to the cinema.
- 3 When the police asked him about it, Jack _____ stealing the money.
- 4 The teacher _____ to let the students leave the class until the end of the lesson.
- 5 John _____ seeing your cousin at the party last week.
- 6 Carla _____ meeting at the Italian restaurant.

7 Complete the sentences with the words below. Are these words nouns or verbs in the sentences? Write N or V.

breed guide help match partner train

- 1 The farmer's new dog was a great _____ to him. ____
- 2 Sailors used to use the stars to _____ them at night. ____
- 3 If you want to be the best, you've got to _____ really hard. ____
- 4 What _____ is your dog? He looks like a poodle. ____
- 5 The teacher decided to _____ me with Sally for the activity. We weren't a good _____! ____, ____

Extension

8 Work in groups. Find out about a charity in your country that helps people. Design a poster promoting this charity. Include the following:

- a short history of the charity
- a summary of what the charity does
- some examples of the people that the charity has helped
- why the charity needs more money

9 Present your poster to the class. The class must then decide which charity they would like to support. Use the key phrases for making and justifying a choice and making an additional point.

Making a choice

I'm going for ...

I'm opting for ...

I'm choosing ...

Justifying a choice

The reason for my choice is ...

I've chosen ... because

There are a number of reasons why I'm choosing ...

Making an additional point

Moreover, ...

Not only that, but ...

What is more, ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about how the charity the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has trained dogs to help guide blind and partially sighted people.

Background

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a British charity that employs around 1,000 people and has over 10,000 volunteers to help breed, train and place dogs with blind or partially sighted people. It has four training schools in Britain and one breeding centre. It takes around 26 weeks to train a dog with a specialist trainer, and this also includes three to five weeks working with their new owner. The association also supports the owners throughout their lives and checks up on the dogs regularly. Guide dogs usually spend six to seven years working before they retire. Guide dog owners only pay 50 pence for their dog, which enables everyone who needs a dog to have one.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to expand on their answers and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 b 2 b 3 c

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to say if the sentences are true or false before they watch the DVD clip again.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 false 2 false 3 true 4 true 5 false 6 true

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to read the sentences and try to decide which numbers complete which sentences before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Check that the students know how to say each of the numbers. Then play the DVD clip and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 246 million 2 400,000 3 8.1 million 4 30,000 5 4,800 6 50,000

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read the sentences and the words first, then complete the sentences.
- **Weaker classes:** Elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 encouraged 2 insisted 3 admitted 4 refused 5 mentioned 6 suggested

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read the sentences and the words first, then complete the sentences. With a **weaker class**, you could go through the sentences with the students and decide whether a verb or a noun is needed.
- **Answers:** 1 help, N 2 guide, V 3 train, V 4 breed, N 5 partner, V; match, N

Extension

Exercises 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** Large pieces of paper, pens, scissors, glue, computers with internet access, printer
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them that they are going to design a poster to promote a charity.
- **Language:** Hold up pictures of two dogs and ask the students to choose one to be a guide dog. Elicit the key phrases.
- **Activity:** Give the students 5–8 minutes to use the internet to find and research their charity and to find some photos. Then give them another 5–8 minutes to design their poster and write a short presentation, making sure they include all the information in the task. Finally, ask the groups to present their charities to the class.
- **Extension:** After all the groups have presented, ask the students to discuss which charity they would like to support and why. For homework, you could ask them to write more about what their chosen charity does and how it helps people.

Guide dogs for the blind

There are five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Different senses send messages to different parts of our brain, and this is how we interact with the world around us. But these senses are complex and fragile – especially our sense of sight.

About 285 million people around the world have problems with their sight. Around 39 million are blind and around 246 million are partially sighted.

This presents obvious difficulties, although many of these difficulties have been overcome.

Louis Braille lost his sight when he was a young boy. Unusually for the time, his parents still encouraged him to go to school. He refused to let his blindness limit him, and as a young man, he invented a system of letters that he could read by touch. It was a huge success and people still use braille today.

Helen Keller was both deaf and blind, but she insisted on learning to communicate with other people. As an adult, she became a famous author, political activist and lecturer, often saying her philosophy was that the world was full of suffering, but it was also full of overcoming.

There are around 400,000 blind or partially sighted people in the UK. Recently, many of these people were asked what the biggest problem they faced was. Most answered: mobility. In fact, almost 200,000 people admitted never going out alone or leaving the house without assistance. But many people mentioned that they could – with help from guide dogs.

In Britain, 51 per cent of households have a pet and 24 per cent have a dog, so there are around 8.1 million dogs in the country. They are very intelligent animals, and for centuries, people have trained them to work, or simply to be well-behaved. But it wasn't until the early 20th century that a few people suggested training dogs to guide blind or partially sighted people.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a British charitable organisation founded in 1931. They have partnered around 30,000 people with dogs, and today there are 4,800 blind and partially sighted people with guide dogs provided by the association. They breed 1,300 puppies every year. Volunteers offer to train these puppies to become guide dogs, teaching them to guide people and to avoid obstacles. They also take the dogs outside so they get used to busy streets and heavy traffic.

Training a guide dog takes around two years, and it isn't cheap. It costs almost £50,000 to train and look after a guide dog. But it's worth it, and once the dog is ready, the organisation matches it with an owner.

Trained dogs can work as guides until they are around ten years old, but many stay with their owners longer as pets. They can make a huge difference to people's lives. They don't just guide the way; they help people to become more independent and to grow in confidence. And, as any dog owner knows, they are fantastic companions!