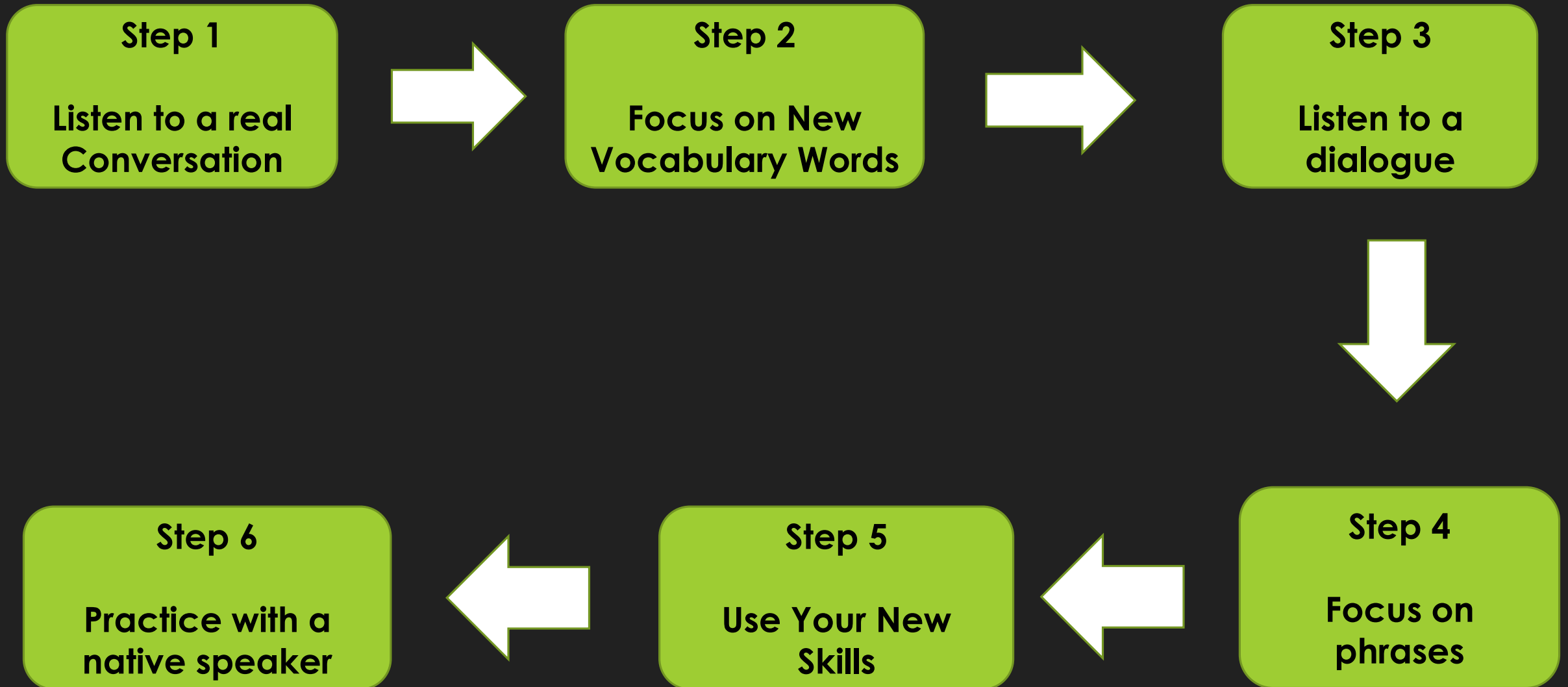




How to Talk to Americans About Their Pets

A Phrasal Verb Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: Do You Have Any Pets?



Please listen to Audio Step 1- Do You Have Any Pets?

**Do you have any pets at home? How do Americans talk about their pets and what kind of role does the family pet play in Americans' lives?
Find out here**

Please view Transcript Step 1-Do You Have Any Pets?

Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

Get rid of

Dress up

**Carry
around**

Stand out

Bonus! How to Ask an American about their Pet

Do you want to get more opportunities to practice your English? Ask an American about their pet!



- **"When did you get her?"** or **"How long have you had him?"** or **"How old is she?"**
- **"Is she an indoor or an outdoor cat?"** (note- in the US, some people keep their cats outdoors permanently and might only bring them inside on the coldest days. Other families keep their cats inside all of the time.)
- **"Is he friendly?"** (note- you might want to teach this phrase to a child so that she or he can know which dogs are safe to pet and which ones aren't)
- **"Can I pet him?"**
- **"What kind of dog is she?"** or **"What breed is he?"**
- **"Where did you get him?"** (note- in the US, it's common to adopt a pet from a shelter and some people get their pets from the pet store, but that is looked down upon by a lot of people.)

Get rid of

Phrasal verb



To remove something, to discard

“My neighbor had a litter of puppies and she needed to get rid of them so I adopted one.”

Dress up

Phrasal verb



Photo: www.petsadviser.com

To get into special clothes for a special occasion

“Did you dress your dog up for Halloween this year?”

Carry around

Phrasal verb

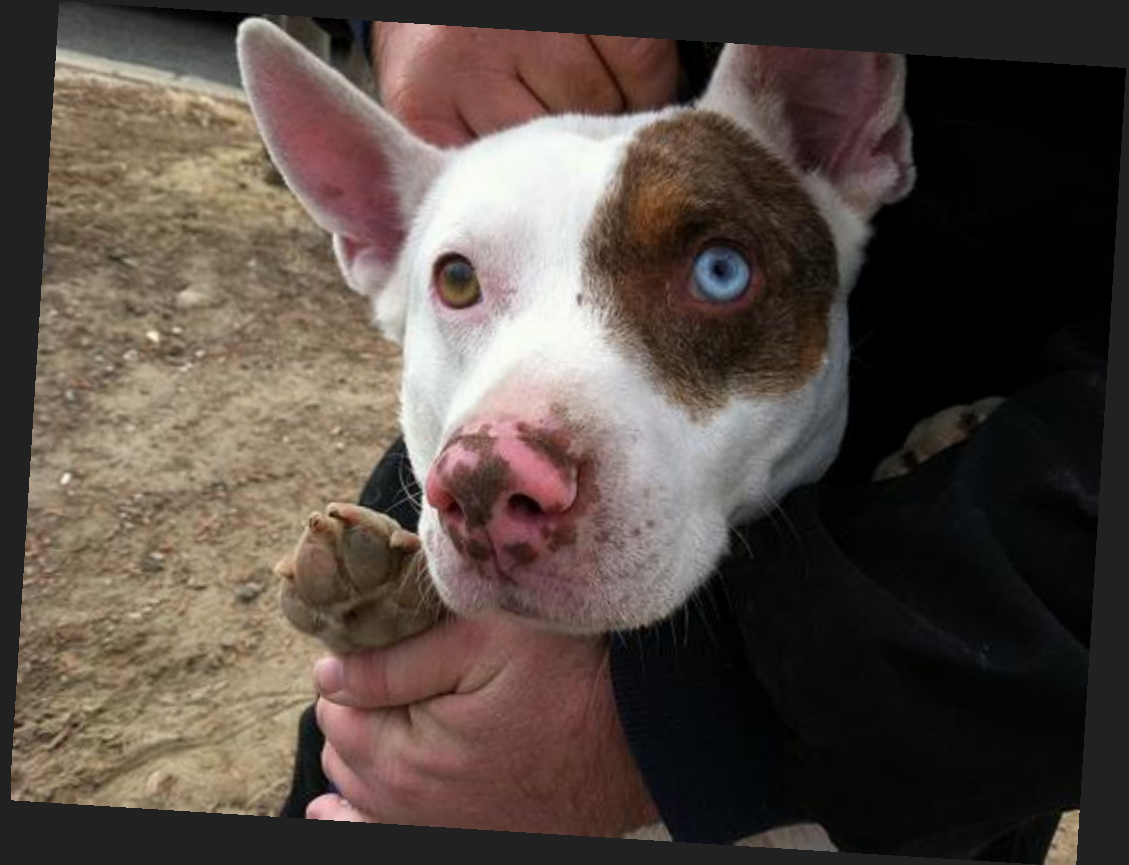


To bring someone or something with you, to hold the object while you change locations

“I had to carry my dog around all day.”

Stand out

Phrasal verb



To be or look different from others

“This dog stands out because of his strange-colored eyes.”

Step 3: What Kind of Dog Is He?

Two friends meet on the subway and one of them just got a new dog. Listen to the conversation

Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4-
What Kind of Dog Is He?



Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – What Kind of Dog Is He?

- They needed to get rid of them
- Are you just carrying him around today?
- Are you going to dress him up like an elf?
- I guess he'll really stand out

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

Click on the file “Say It Another Way”

Step 5: Use Your New Skills

Carry around

Stand out

Get rid of

Dress up

A: Do you __1__ (transport) your little dog in your handbag?

B: Yeah, she fits in there nicely.

A: Wow, your dog really __2__ (looks different) with that pink collar.

B: Oh thanks. It used to belong to my old dog. I was going to __3__ (throw it out) but I decided to save it for this dog.

A: Would you ever __4__ (put your dog in a costume) for Halloween?

B: Never. I think it's the tackiest thing I have ever seen.

Answers to Step 5 Quiz

- 1) Carry around
- 2) Stand out
- 3) Get rid of
- 4) Dress your dog up

Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards



Carry around

Stand out



Dress up



Get rid of



Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Do you have any pets at home? Would you ever **dress up** your pet for a holiday? Do you think that is a strange idea? Do people do that in your country? Why or why not?
- If you could choose between a small dog that you could **carry around** in a bag and a large dog that you could keep on a leash, which would you choose? Why? Which type of dog fits better with your lifestyle?

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) So Christmas is coming. Are you going to _____ (dress up) your dog in a Santa suit?

B: No not this time around. Last Halloween we tried to dress him up like a ghost and it didn't work.

A: Why not?

B: Well we had to _____ (carry him around) because he kept tripping on the white sheet. What a pain!

Answers to Bonus Conversation 1

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student)* So Christmas is coming. Are you going to put your dog in a Santa suit?

B: No not this time around. Last Halloween we tried to dress him up like a ghost and it didn't work.

A: *Why not?*

B: Well we had to lug him around because he kept tripping on the white sheet. What a pain!

Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Have you ever had to **get rid of** a pet? Why did you have to get rid of him? How did you feel? Please tell the story.
- Would you ever adopt a pet that really **stood out**? For example, a handicapped dog with three legs, a blind cat, etc.? Why or why not? What happens with disabled animals in your home country?

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Hey how's your cat? I heard he was at the vet (veterinarian)

B: Yes, unfortunately it looks like he's going to be blind in one eye.

A: Oh wow, he's really going to ____ (stand out). Kids are probably going to laugh at him. Why don't you ____ (get rid of) him? Put him up for adoption. Maybe he needs an owner who has more time to care for him.

B: No way. I couldn't do that. I don't mind if he looks strange. I'll take good care of him.

Answers to Bonus Conversation 2

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Hey how's your cat? I heard he was at the vet (veterinarian)

B: Yes, unfortunately it looks like he's going to be blind in one eye.

A: Oh wow, he's really going to look different from other dogs. Kids are probably going to laugh at him. Why don't you find him a new home? Put him up for adoption. Maybe he needs an owner who has more time to care for him.

B: No way. I couldn't do that. I don't mind if he looks strange. I'll take good care of him.

Practice with a Native

- What is your opinion about the concept of “designer dogs” that we discussed in Audio Step 1? Does this happen in your country?
- In the US, people think of their pets as family members. Is the same true in your country? Why or why not?
- Please read the following quote and share your opinion. Do you agree? Why or why not? Are you a cat person or a dog person?

“Owners of dogs will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think you are god. Whereas owners of cats are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they draw the conclusion that *they* are gods.” – Christopher Hitchens

Practice with a Native

- Do you have any objections with the idea of adopting a pet from a pet store instead of a shelter? Where did you adopt your pet if you have a pet?
- What can people learn from their pets? What have you learned from your pet?
- Do you think animals experience some human emotions like shame or guilt?
- Please describe your pet using as many adjectives as you can

Credits

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- Carry around: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/andrewr/>
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