

6

EXTENSION

Name:

1 The words below appear in the text in Exercise 2. Find the words and guess their meanings. Use a dictionary to check your guesses.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. begging | 3. rules |
| 2. survey | 4. turn |

2 Read the text and complete the chart.

Can I Have a Dog?

Most kids have asked their parents for a dog at least once. When parents say no, the kids often start begging – “I’ll take care of it – you won’t have to do a thing”. The begging can continue for weeks. Tired of fighting, some parents agree in the end. “We’ll get a dog”, they say, “and we won’t have any more arguments, right?” Wrong. According to a new survey, an average dog causes about 2,000 family arguments in its life.

Most frequently, families argue about where to put the dog during a holiday or where it should sleep. Sometimes they fight about who should walk it or clean up its mess. And when the dog eats a shoe, a pair of sunglasses or a child’s favourite ball, they fight about who let it happen.

For some owners, dogs are more important than friends. Friends are often unreliable, they say, and can disappoint. These people often treat their dogs like members of the family, feeding them at the dinner table and letting them sleep in their bed. For others, very often on farms, a dog is no more than a guard. These people put their dogs outside to protect the house from thieves. But even in the same family, people have got different relationships with their pets and this is the main reason they argue about them.

The best way to prevent arguments is to make decisions about what the dog can and can’t do before getting one. The rules need to be clear from the beginning. But whatever your family decides, there’s one thing you’ll have to accept – teens are old enough to take care of their dogs. So when it’s your turn, don’t argue. Just do it.

| Reason | Result |
|---|--|
| 1. | Some parents let their children have dogs. |
| The dog eats something it shouldn’t. | 2. |
| Some people think dogs are part of the family | 3. |
| 4. | Some people keep their dogs outside. |

3 Choose the correct modal according to the information in the text.

- Parents **shouldn’t** / **should** / **are able to** buy a dog to end family arguments.
- Many families don’t know what they **must** / **should** / **could** do with their dog when they’re on holiday.
- Families don’t always agree on who **can’t** / **may** / **has to** walk the dog.
- Some people believe friends **should** / **could** / **can** be unreliable.
- According to many farmers, dogs **must** / **mustn’t** / **can’t** protect homes. They **should** / **shouldn’t** / **couldn’t** eat with the family.
- Families **can** / **need to** / **can’t** make decisions about a new dog before it arrives.
- Teens **are able to** / **can’t** / **could** take care of their dogs.



EXTENSION

- 4** Your parents brought home a dog last week and you've just had your first dog-related argument. Post a message on a pet care forum, describing what happened. Ask for tips on how to prevent arguments in the future.