

Lesson Plan

Agility Day

Book: *Yorkshire Terriers*

Series: That's My Dog

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice identifying parts of speech such as nouns and verbs and using correct subject-verb agreement.

Supplies

- *Yorkshire Terriers* book
- Whiteboard
- Agility Day Word List (attached)
- Agility Day Story (attached)

Before the Activity

Read through the *Yorkshire Terriers* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide the students into groups of three or four. Print one Agility Day Word List and one Agility Day Story for each group.

Activity

Page 6 of *Yorkshire Terries* describes the sport of agility. In this activity, dogs run through a course that contains different kinds of objects or obstacles. The dogs may leap over jumps or run through tunnels. Dogs get points for using each obstacle correctly and for completing the course quickly. To be successful, dogs must be trained to recognize each obstacle and know what to do with it.

Explain to the students that sentences also contain objects (nouns) and actions (verbs). These basic parts of speech can have several different forms. For example, some nouns are singular. These nouns describe just one person, place, thing, or idea. Other nouns are plural. These nouns describe two or more people, places, things, or ideas. In most cases, a singular noun can be made plural by adding an “s” to the end of the word. However, there are some exceptions. For nouns ending in *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch*, or *sh*, you usually add “es” to the end to make them plural. And some nouns have irregular plural forms. These nouns do not follow the typical pattern. Write the following nouns on the whiteboard:

- coat
- shoulder

- flower
- inch
- dish
- fox
- mouse
- goose
- leaf

Ask for nine volunteers to come up to the front of the class and write the plural form of each noun next to the singular form. (Answers: coats, shoulders, flowers, inches, dishes, foxes, mice, geese, leaves)

Next, explain that verbs have different forms as well. Verbs can be singular or plural, depending on which person or thing is doing the action described in the sentence. The noun and the verb in a sentence must agree. If the noun is singular, the verb must be singular, too. If the noun is plural, the verb must be plural. Write the following example sentences on the whiteboard, underlining each verb:

- The coat falls to the ground.
- Her shoulder hurts.
- The flower opens in the sun.

These sentences all have singular nouns as their subjects, so the verbs are singular, too. Singular verbs often end in “s.” Sentences with plural subjects should have plural verbs. In most cases, plural verbs will not end in “s.” Write the following example sentences on the whiteboard, underlining each verb:

- The coats fall to the ground.
- Their shoulders hurt.
- The flowers open in the sun.

Divide the students into groups of three or four. Give each group one Agility Day Word List. Students in the group should take turns choosing a word for each blank. One student should write down their answers. Students will use these answers to fill out the Agility Day Story sheet, writing one word in each blank like a game of Mad Libs. As they write each word in a blank, students should make sure that the subject (or noun) and verb in each sentence agree. Then students can read the story out loud.

Evaluation

Collect the Agility Day Word List and Agility Day Story from each group. Give students one point for each blank they filled with the correct part of speech and one point for using correct subject-verb agreement, for a total of 80 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ language standards, grade 3 (L 3.1).

Agility Day Word List

1. verb: _____

21. verb: _____

2. noun: _____

22. verb: _____

3. noun: _____

23. noun: _____

4. verb: _____

24. noun: _____

5. verb: _____

25. noun: _____

6. verb: _____

26. verb: _____

7. noun: _____

27. verb: _____

8. verb: _____

28. noun: _____

9. verb: _____

29. verb: _____

10. noun: _____

30. verb: _____

11. verb: _____

31. noun: _____

12. verb: _____

32. verb: _____

13. verb: _____

33. verb: _____

14. verb: _____

34. noun: _____

15. noun: _____

35. noun: _____

16. verb: _____

36. verb: _____

17. verb: _____

37. noun: _____

18. noun: _____

38. verb: _____

19. verb: _____

39. noun: _____

20. verb: _____

40. verb: _____

Agility Day Story

An Agility Run to _____
1. verb

It is a beautiful fall _____. The _____ is shining, and leaves _____ from the
2. noun 3. noun 4. verb
trees. Out on the field, dogs and their owners _____ to get ready for the day's event. You
5. verb
_____ your dog's leash and walk to the registration _____. After picking up your nametag,
6. verb 7. noun
you _____ to the waiting area and _____ for your dog's turn on the course.
8. verb 9. verb

Three _____ later, it is finally your turn to _____. You and your dog _____ to the
10. noun 11. verb 12. verb
start of the course and get ready to _____. At the announcer's signal, you _____ your dog
13. verb 14. verb
to run to the first _____ and _____ through it. Then your dog _____ a tunnel and runs
15. noun 16. verb 17. verb
toward the _____. You _____ behind her and call ahead, telling her to _____ toward the
18. noun 19. verb 20. verb
teeter-totter. As your dog _____ onto the teeter-totter, she _____ a little but does not fall
21. verb 22. verb
off. The two of you race through a _____, jump over a _____, and then loop toward the
23. noun 24. noun
_____. Only the weave poles are left before your dog _____ the course. Your dog _____
25. noun 26. verb 27. verb
between the poles, moving as fast as a _____ of light. Then the two of you _____ toward
28. noun 29. verb
the end of the course.

You _____ up at the scoreboard for your time, which is only two _____. It's a new
30. verb 31. noun
record! You are so happy you begin to _____. The other dogs do not complete the course
32. verb
as quickly, so you _____ the first-place prize: a year's supply of _____ and a decorative
33. verb 34. noun
_____ for your dog to wear. Then you and your dog _____ home. A cool breeze ruffles your
35. noun 36. verb
_____ as your dog _____ ahead. The two of you make a great team. As you head inside
37. noun 38. verb
your _____, you can't wait to get back on the agility course and _____ again soon.
39. noun 40. verb