

YFL Standard Commands Used And A List of What Your Dog Is Capable Of

These are Basic Commands used in training by YFL. Primarily these commands are used for a dog 6 months or older working on their full obedience training, or AKC Canine Good Citizenship Certification. However, some of the commands are also used for training a puppy 8 to 16 week of age. Young Puppy Starter-Training is based on using a Clicker and a Treat. Dog over 6 months in age are more independent, thinking more and therefore need trained differently. For these and older dogs the work is done with a 6 ft. leash connected to a chain collar that can be “rattled” to communicate your instruction is coming. In conjunction with this, YFL uses a remote e-collar to communicate instruction. At all ages, the dog is always rewarded with additional verbal praise and affection when a command is followed – i.e., an enthusiastic “Good Dog/name” Treats are occasionally also used for the older dogs. Training a puppy or a dog takes time daily on a regular basis, and remember YFL is here to help you with this when you want it. Once the training is completed and the commands are being understood by the dog, the longevity and level of continued obedience is always based on the consistency and practice by the owner.

YFL often uses the dog’s name as the first part of the command. Early on in the training process this both reinforces their name recognition and gets their attention. At times, to also distinguish which dog should respond to the command when other dogs are present. At YFL, we often use Hand-Signals with a command, too. That means the dog needs to be looking at you, and using their name is a good way to say “look at Me”.

- **Heel:** Walk staying right at your side. The position of Heel is when the dog’s head/shoulders are even with your knee. Some dogs are taught to heel on your left, and some on the right. YFL teach to the left. Heel is the first training objective to get them to start listening for directions and approval. In addition to praise, sometimes a treat is the key when they are right where they are supposed to be – next to you. With the remote e-collar using the “Nick” feature touched repeatedly the dog feels a gentle “itch” or “tickle” feeling that stops when they are back next to you in the proper position. A tug or rattle of the chain collar also guides them back. They soon make the mental connection – feel the tickled when out of position or not turning, but praised when I’m next to him! This will later be developed into learning to walk at Heel when fully off-leash with just your voice is used. As a Hand-Signal, I point down my left side as the command to Heel is given. For a puppy just “Walk” on the leash with you more in general versus a true heel.
- **Sit:** Sit means Sit and stay seated. This is an excellent command for keeping your dog stationary in public or when around distractions, unwanted interaction with other dogs, or jumping up on strangers. YFL will start-off slowly with a few seconds sitting at a time, then working up to multiple minutes. At the same time, the distance you walk away from them is increased. They should stay in the Sit position until being released by being told to Break or come to Heel. As a Hand-Signal, YFL raises a hand sharply with palm up to Sit. At YFL a dog is taught to Heel & Sit as the 2nd training objective, which means to sit at the heeling position when I stop.
- **Here or Come:** Your dog comes to you. When starting out giving the Here command you may want to using a longer leash of 6 foot or even 25 ft (optional). When beginning Here training, they are told to Sit (where they are to stay), then command is given with an exited Here pulling them to you. Praise them. You are their safe zone and where they are praised. Often YFL will teach “Come to Heel” as a separate command in addition to just Here that says come back to me or to stand in front of me. Initially, the remote e-collar Nick-button is used telling the dog to listen for direction. The verbal command become linked as a trigger to move as directed. For puppies the command is linked in their minds to the clicker sound and getting a treat when they get to you.
- **Place:** Go to a specific location. This Place should always be the second safe zone for the dog as an alternative to being right next to you. When starting the training for Place the Nick-button is tapped a few times as you approach the Place, then stopped when they are on it. When on Place the e-remote collar is never used for another or next command, nor are they to be scolded when on Place. Lots of praise is critical when they go to their Place as obedience reinforcement. Once a dog is on the “place”, whether it is a Place-Board or dog-bed, they are to stay on Place until they are released– even if there is a knock at the door or another dog walks past. Praise them often for staying on Place and exhibiting self-control. Like other commands you need to build up the time period for staying on Place. The Hand-Signal is simply to point at the location when giving the Place command. They will learn it. Puppies simply get that desired click & treat when they go to the directed Place.

- **Down:** Lay-down now. The word Down is often mistakenly used when bad manners are exhibited – i.e., directing the dog to get off something or stop jumping up on someone. For bad behavior the proper command is **Off**. This is important. Down is used as the command to the dog to lay-down on the ground and stay down until released or commanded something else. This is another command you need to build up the time period they hold it. As a Hand-Signal YFL points to the ground or touching the ground. Sometimes Drop is the command taught instead of Down. When well trained, the dog can be commanded to go between Down and Sit repeatedly as if doing sit-ups. Also Drop and Roll can be taught.
- **Stay:** Stay is implied with Sit, Down, and Place. It is not meant to be a command that is given separately but used as you are developing the dog's abilities with the other commands. Example: sit means to Sit and stay in a Sit until released from the Sit. Place means to stay on Place until released, directed to Heel, or Here. Down means stay on the ground until told otherwise. The Hand signal is a flat palm held up to them.
- **Halt:** Stop where you are. The Halt command is one command that most trainers don't work with. It means that you want the dog to stop right where it is and to Sit, especially when it is not directly with you. This may be for safety reasons to protect the dog or to protect someone else. The Hand-Signal with the command given is the flat palm opened up to them and turned upward. Sometimes the command may be taught as stop and standing in place, or to Sit, or to go Down, but in any event, to go no further and stay until released or recalled.
- **Break:** You are free. This command is a sharp one-syllable word used in training by YFL to releases the dog from the prior command and telling the dog that it can now move freely until another command is given.
- **These are additional Commands used in training by YFL but not taught in Basic Obedience training.**
- **Leave-It:** Don't sniff or touch it. Use this command in a situation when the dog is focused on something that you can anticipate the dog putting in its mouth on a walk (like a cigarette butt), or other times the dog focuses on something else that may cause the dog to break away or grab, i.e., another dog, a squirrel, a sock, food laying out or being held in someone's hand, etc.
- **Off:** All four feet on the ground. To be use when a dog has "bad manners", and is jumping on people or unwanted objects such as furniture or a counter A sharp "Off" means all four paws on the floor. This is a more challenging command to train since the dog must first do wrong in front of you in order to be instructed, but they will quickly get the point. This is also good along with the command Leave-It to help with kitchen counter surfing. A squirt of clean water from a spray bottle also is a good tool as well as the remote collar.
- **Quiet:** Just that – No barking. This command is for correcting a behavioral issue, but first the dog must do wrong in order to be taught. The correction can be done with the remote e-collar using either the Nick-button or the Vibrate-button, which quickly breaks their train-of-thought and the Quiet command is given. Also, a squirt in the face from a water spray bottle will work great to get their attention and the Quiet command. You don't want your dog to scare someone, disturb others, or in general embarrass you. It is all about good manners.
- **Crate:** It is – go into your room. This is very much like place, but a specific place. Crate should never be done in anger or as punishment. YFL often feeds the dog in the crate and normally (or at least during training) gives the dog a treat for going in the crate as part of the training routine. It is a safe place where good things happen.
- **Back:** Back up. The dog needs to back up and sit until invited or commanded to proceed. No pushing past you or someone else to get out the door, or it simply to back-up from something a few steps.
- **Out/In:** It is now OK to proceed. These commands are about manners and pushing past. The dog may only proceed somewhere, such as going through doors or getting into the truck/car calmly when told. These commands need to be used on a consistent basis – every time they going out through a door (go to the car), they should stop, sit, and wait to be told to proceed with the command only when you are ready. Then come to a well-behaved sit after proceeding through a door. This takes 10 seconds each time when training, but will reinforces that you are in command always. The dog needs to learn to be under control and well-mannered.

IT IS ALL POSSIBLE!

Call YFL if or when you want some help.