TEACHER'S GUIDE

Listening activities and suggested answers

What can a dog smell that we can't?

This version: English | Duration: 10:27 (about 10 min)

Published languages: English, Finnish.

Spotify: open.spotify.com/episode/1wxdBPTSVpK1v7Oy1TOAnd
YouTube: youtu.be/eAoWV-9s3_Q

Introduce the questions before listening. Students write answers after the whole episode. Discuss their answers as a class or in pairs.

Suggested answers are in italics. Accept students' own wording when the meaning is correct.

1 What reaches a dog's nose when it smells something?

Tiny odour molecules enter the nose. They can come from objects, animals or surfaces and travel in the air.

2 Why does a dog sniff and change position during a search?

It takes new scent samples and compares places. Wind, surfaces and obstacles change where the scent is stronger or weaker.

3 What does a detection dog learn during training?

It learns which scent is the target and how to indicate a find to its handler. Finding the target is linked to a reward such as play or food.

4 Draw a scent detective's search

The drawing connects moving air, scent and active searching. Scent arrows represent an invisible process, not coloured lines a dog sees. Accept different explained routes.

Teaching tip: Ask what extra information the dog gets by moving its nose.