

# Animals Who Help the Disabled

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## Vocabulary

*Repeat each vocabulary word and definition after the teacher*

- **Blind guy** Man who can't see (guy means man but spoken informally)
  - **Seeing-eye Dog** A dog who's specially trained to help blind people
  - **Working dog** A dog that's not a pet, but trained to work with people with special needs
  - **Atlas** The Roman Titan who is famous for holding up the world on his shoulders
  - **The name really fits him** The name is very suitable for him
  - **Calm one's nerves** To make someone peaceful, serene, under emotional control
  - **Comfort animal** An animal (usually a dog) that a doctor has certified would provide an emotional support to a person with emotional disorders like bad experiences during war or an abusive relationship
  - **Calm one down** To become quiet or calm, especially after being upset
  - **You're kidding me!** You're joking with me
  - **Chuckle** A quiet laugh, like “hehehehehe”
  - **I'min'a** I'm gonna (pronounced quickly), literally “I am going to”
  - **Have'ta** Have to (pronounced quickly)
  - **Did'ju** Did you (pronounced quickly)
  - **T'gedda** To get a (pronounced quickly)
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# Dialogue

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*Read the dialogue with the teacher, and then switch roles*

- A:** Did you see that **blind guy**? He had a **seeing-eye dog**! I've never seen that before!
- B:** You haven't? Remember my friend Rachel? Her sight got worse and worse and finally she had **to get a seeing-eye dog**, and he's such a great dog. But we're not allowed to pet or play with the dog, because it's a **working dog**.
- A:** Oh yeah, I'd forgotten about her. What's her dog's name?
- B:** **Atlas**, he's so big, the **name really fits him**.
- A:** Have you ever seen any other kinds of **working dogs**?
- B:** I read that some soldiers need a dog to help **calm their nerves** when they come back from war, they call them "**Comfort dogs**".
- A:** Why do they need a dog like that?
- B:** Sometimes soldiers see and do some really bad things in war, so the dogs help **calm them down**. They're registered as working dogs so they can even take the dogs on airplanes and so on, they **have to** get the the right paperwork though, of course.
- A:** That sounds like a great idea too. I wonder if there are also **seeing-eye animals** like cats or birds or anything like that.
- B:** No, I don't think so. I think dogs are the only animals for helping blind people, but I've heard of some other kinds of animals as **comfort animals**.
- A:** Like what?
- B:** Like rabbits or pigs or turkeys.
- A:** Reallllly? **You're kidding me!**
- B:** Yeah! Really! You can see them on the news sometimes, when the animals do something crazy on the airplanes or when the airport workers can't believe what they're seeing!
- A:** Maybe when I get old and blind **I'm going to** get a **seeing-eye dog** too!
- B:** \* **Chuckle** \* Yeah, maybe!

## Checking Understanding

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1. Which friend had to get a seeing-eye dog?
2. What's the name of her dog?
3. Can you pet or play with working dogs?
4. Why do some soldiers need comfort dogs after war?
5. What are some other animals besides dogs that work as comfort animals?
6. How to pronounce "I'm gonna" quickly?
7. How to pronounce "Have to" quickly?
8. How to pronounce "Did you" quickly?
9. How to pronounce "To get a" quickly?

# Conversation Questions

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*Take turns asking the questions with your teacher, and if there's any time left over you can free chat*

- Have you ever known anyone who had a seeing-eye dog?
- Do you know anyone with disabilities or handicaps?
- What are some disabilities that people have?
- Have you ever helped anyone with a disability?
- What do you feel when you see someone with a disability?
- How would you feel if you going blind? What would you do?
- Do you know anyone that has to use a wheelchair?
- Have you ever seen anyone famous that has a disability like a comedian or actor?
- Do you know anyone who can't walk but they can drive a car?
- Have you ever seen a comfort animal?
- Do you know anyone who would benefit from a comfort animal?
- What are some ways that disabled people can compensate for their personal obstacles?
- How are disabled people treated in your country?
- Are there wheelchair ramps in buildings in your country?
- Have you ever seen a taxi driver that couldn't walk?