

- 1 Read the article about dogs as fashion accessories. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A-H) the one which fits each gap (1-7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Prada puppies



Fashion trends have never ceased to amaze. From outrageously padded shoulders to beehive hairdos and from tattoos to piercings, we've seen it all. Suzie Baleman takes a look at a new kind of trend ... and wonders if people have completely lost their minds!

When you think of fashion accessories, what comes to mind? (1) _____. Accessories help to create a certain look by adding colour and style. If they're expensive designer items, they also add status, 'Look at me! I can afford this bag!' That's fine and I don't begrudge anyone their Prada handbag, but things have gone too far in the world of fashion when pets are treated as trendy items. Yes, the word 'item' is indeed correct, because ultimately, dogs used as fashion accessories are quite similar to objects. How did this happen?

(2) _____. 'These women show me their bags and tell me the dog has to fit in there,' says Marcus Berg, manager of Pet Palace in London. 'The dogs, known as teacups due to their small size, are pre-ordered and are only delivered to their new owners when the breeders are sure they will stay small enough. And the smaller the dogs are, the more they cost.' (3) _____. Marcus sighs and explains that some end up in dog shelters, where their owners leave them claiming, 'It didn't fit in with my lifestyle.' Just like that, the animals are abandoned.

But it isn't size alone that makes a dog trendy. There are also the trendy breeds. What will it be this year? French Bulldogs, Labradors? And next year? We'll see. (4) _____. Following the success *101 Dalmatians*, thousands of people bought Dalmatian puppies. But the cute little puppies grew into enormous dogs, and suddenly, they weren't so cute anymore. Guess where many of them ended up? That's right, in animal shelters or on the street. Abandoned.

Such behaviour upsets me greatly for I am a dog lover.

(5) _____. And why not? Dogs listen to what you say

and never argue with you. They're happy just to be in your company. If you leave them for five minutes or five hours, you get the same excited greeting when you return. (6) _____. They're quite content with a pair of old shoes to chew on. Yes, they may bark from time to time and you do have to walk them regularly, but after all's said and done, the love they give is unconditional.

So how is it possible, I wondered, that anyone would treat them so cruelly? A dog is not an accessory. A belt is a fashion accessory, a car is an accessory - but these are things; they aren't alive, they don't feel fear or pain or loss when you toss them out in favour of next year's style. Dogs are a lifetime commitment; they are living, breathing, feeling creatures, capable of love and loyalty, and they should never be bought or got rid of to keep up with a fad. (7) _____

The golden rule should apply to your dog as much as it applies to any human being - treat him as you would want to be treated, with love and respect.

- A In fact, I often prefer the company of a dog to another human being.
- B What happens if the dog gets too big after it's bought?
- C A dog should be a companion, not a means of getting attention or showing off your financial status and willingness to follow trends.
- D You've seen the pictures – celebrities toting small dogs in their expensive designer bags.
- E Naturally, the pet shops are reluctant to talk about it as it makes them look bad.
- F All it takes is a successful film and the craze begins.
- G They don't need the latest expensive toys and gadgets and won't nag you until you buy whatever it is they want.
- H Probably belts, scarves, earrings, sunglasses and bags, to name but a few.