

1.1. Read the statements below the text, pay attention to words and phrases in bold.

1.2. Read the text and find a synonym for every highlighted word or phrase.

### FRIENDS FOR LIFE

The *concept* of trained dogs acting as eyes for those who could not see *developed* at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Germany in an unusual school. The pupils were not humans, but dogs who were taught how to lead people who were blind. The idea caught on quickly, and guide dogs or Seeing Eye dogs as they are also known, began to be trained in many countries. They are now a familiar sight. These patient and loyal animals lead their blind companions everywhere they go, giving them the possibility to make their way in the world almost as well as sighted persons.

Not every breed of dog makes a good guide. Seeing Eye dogs must be alert at all times, so dogs that are not attentive are not suitable. Labrador retrievers, German shepherds and boxers make excellent guides because they are smart, easy to train, and usually get along well with people. During its training, the dog is taken to many kinds of busy places. This is to get it used to anything that might happen. A dog is trained in large stores, noisy airports and crowded restaurants. It rides on buses and in taxis. It is pushed and poked, and it learns to ignore anything that might cause its attention to wander.

The Seeing Eye dog is responsible for steering its owner carefully past any obstacles. On busy sidewalks, the dog must skillfully weave its way around other pedestrians to make sure its owner doesn't get pushed.

A guide dog has to stop to tell its owner to take a step up or down. But even though it learns to be obedient, a guide dog is also taught that sometimes it must disobey. For example, if its owner tells it to cross a street when a car is coming, it won't move until it is safe to cross. While it is being trained, a guide dog is never punished for making a mistake; instead, it is being encouraged to do better by being rewarded when it behaves correctly.

When the training is complete, a guide dog is assigned to its new owner. The two of them need to be compatible because they will be together for a long time. The size, weight and nature of both are taken into account. A heavy-set person might be more comfortable with a large dog while a person who spends most of the day inside probably will not want to be matched with a frisky dog that needs plenty of exercise. From the beginning, a strong bond needs to form between the dog and the owner.

0. The *idea* about Seeing Eye dogs *was born* in Germany. (*concept, developed*).

1. Originally dogs were pupils in an **out of ordinary** school.
2. The idea **spread fast** around the world.
3. Dogs are **calm and trustworthy** animals.
4. **Three breeds of dogs** are easy to train and make excellent guides.
5. Dogs are trained in **different crowded** places.
6. The dog is taught **not to pay attention** to the surrounding people and things.
7. When walking on street, the dog must **skillfully walk**.
8. Whenever there is **any change in the level of the sidewalk** the dog has to **warn** its owner by stopping.
9. The Seeing Eye dog **doesn't have to obey its owner at any times**.
10. The dog has to **behave right** to be rewarded.
11. The **dog and its owner have to match** in size, weight and nature.
12. A **good relationship** between the owner and the dog should be established from the beginning.