

# Down

## Level 2: Add a Verbal Cue

### Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to fade the target and introduce a new cue for “down.”

### Dog Skills

Targeting  
Self control  
Respond to a cue

### People Skills

Shaping  
Cueing

### Steps:

1. Begin with a warm-up of down with the target, clicking and treating correct responses.
2. If using a target stick, when the dog is reliably following the target, begin to fade the target by moving your hand closer to the end of the target until the dog is responding to the hand cue.
3. If using your finger, fade the amount of movement.
4. When the dog is reliably offering the down, introduce a verbal cue. Click and toss the treat to reset the dog.

### Click Points

Tummy on ground

### Good for developing these other behaviours:

Down Levels 3 and 4, stay, settle on mat or in crate, down when cued from a distance, drop on recall, fun tricks like rollover and play dead.

### At home fun:

Capture spontaneous downs, clicking and treating just as the dog’s tummy hits the ground. If you don’t have a clicker handy, use a mouth click or “yes” and reinforce. Practice in different rooms of the house and outdoors in environments with minimal distractions.