

The Human Words I Understand



You talk to me more than you talk to people, so you must think I understand. What else is the point? So this may come as a shock. I do not recognize most of the sounds you make, although I do know a few.

"Dinnertime"

That's an easy one. Food in the bowl. I learned that even before I was house-broken.

"Breakfast"

Also food in the bowl. Maybe it's a nickname for dinnertime, but I'm not sure. There's also "treat." It means food that's not in the bowl.

"Get down"

That's food on the countertop. Or food on the coffee table.

"Walk"

Also easy. When you only think about three or four things in your entire life, it's kind of a snap.

"Don't run off" and "Come back here"

It's like "walk," without the leash. I think the technical meaning is "go ahead and explore."

"Axelrod"

This was a biggie. For years, I used to just think of it as the sound you make when you're paying attention to me. But now I think it's actually my name, which is slightly different. I'm very proud of myself for learning this.

"Axel"

I have no idea.

"Good"

It's a sound of approval. I know because your voice is nice.

"Bad," "No," "Dammit," "Stop," "Hey"

All of them mean the same thing, whatever it is.

You make other sounds and maybe they have meanings too. "Sit." "Stay." "Shake hands." I try to judge by what you do, like holding out your hand (that's either sit, stay, or shake hands) or pushing down on my rump (either sit, stay, or shake hands). Also your tone of voice helps, like exactly how mad you sound. But really, it's just a guess.

AXELROD