

## Grade 5

### English Bulldogs

#### Introduction

There are thousands of breeds of dogs in the world. Each has its own special characteristics and history. One in particular stands out from the rest. This dog has the face of a curmudgeon but the personality of a best friend. This special dog is the English Bulldog. Thousands of Americans own them. They came to America in the 17th century. Owning an English Bulldog is wonderful, but it needs special care because of the many health problems it has. Get ready to learn all about the history of English Bulldogs, the physical characteristics of English Bulldogs, and also to get some important tips on taking care of Bulldogs properly.

The writer teaches different aspects of the subject and includes different kinds of information, such as how-tos (in special care section), essays (in conclusion), and stories (in having a bulldog as a pet section).

The introduction gets readers interested and lets them know what they will be learning about.

#### Physical Description

The English Bulldog is a medium-sized, **compact**, wide dog. It has short legs, which seem very short in comparison to its massive head. It has wrinkles around its **skull** and the top of its head made by extra skin that falls in folds. Imagine a wrinkled old person and you can imagine what the face of an English Bulldog looks like. There is a special word used to describe the color of many bulldogs, which is **brindle**. Brindle is when a dog has two colors, usually white and tan. Many bulldogs have this color. They can also come in white, black, red, and light brown. Bulldogs have wide, black noses and small eyes that seem to be very far apart from each other. In addition, they have enormous jaws that look dangerous but really are not. Their teeth have an **under bite**, which means the top teeth sort of hang over the lower teeth. The females weigh about 45 pounds and the males weigh about 50.

The writer used commas to set off introductory parts.

The writing is organized into a sequence of separate sections, which are highlighted with headings.

Each section is organized in a way that fits the genre (e.g., the special care how-to section is organized in sequence).

#### Special Care

English Bulldogs need to be walked at least once per day. According to the site [bulldoginfo.com](http://bulldoginfo.com), they have a "canine instinct to migrate," which means that because they are a dog, it is natural for them to want to move around. In addition, it is good for English Bulldogs to practice catching and chasing. The reason for this is that chasing is part of their instinct. It is important to use the same commands each time you play with a bulldog, that way it can learn.

There is a variety of information, such as examples, quotes, and details.

The writer used connecting words and phrases (*in addition, the reason . . . is . . .*)

Bulldogs have a short coat. It is only about ½ inch long. This means they don't have to be brushed all the time. Most books say to brush English Bulldogs about 3–4 times every week. This is usually enough to keep them looking glossy.

The writer used outside sources and gives credit to these sources.

The writer made deliberate word choices, such as using expert vocabulary.

Bulldogs don't really need a special diet, but they do need to eat foods that are natural and it is good if they eat at the same time each day. The book *Bulldog Life*, by James Thomas, says that many bulldogs only need to eat once per day. The book also says you should read labels to find out about good ingredients. Stay away from ingredients with long names, like "propylene glycol." In my

The writer used a teaching voice and distinguishes between facts and opinion.

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opinion, this is a smart thing to do in general, whether feeding your pet or yourself!

### Health Issues

This is a special section on some of the health problems that English Bulldogs sometimes have. Read the chart to find out more.

The writer made choices about how best to organize information, such as using charts and other text features to highlight information and teach readers.

Health Problem	What to Do
• Heat Stroke—getting too hot and <b>panting</b>	• Don't let them play too long in the heat, give them cool water right away
• Cherry Eye—a swollen <b>gland</b> in the eye	• Take them right to the vet when their eyes get really red
• Hip Dysplasia—hip doesn't fit in the <b>joint</b>	• Don't make them walk up stairs and get a low dog dish

### Having a Bulldog as a Pet

There are many great reasons to have an English Bulldog as a pet. Many people love having them as part of the family. They can even save your life! In the book *Bulldog Life* he tells the story of one brave English Bulldog who saved his family's life. The mom was making dinner and went upstairs to check on the kids. Suddenly Hugo, the dog, smelled smoke. He ran into the kitchen and he saw the stove was on fire. He ran upstairs and barked and barked. The mom came down and saw the fire and put it out with a towel. Hugo saved the day!

But, there are some pros and cons to having a bulldog pet. Here are some of the pros and cons.

### Pros and Cons of Owning a Bulldog

#### PROS

- They make great pets
- They are very loyal
- They have a good personality
- They are great with little kids and babies
- They make good watchdogs
- They are very adorable

#### CONS

- They drool a lot
- They have many health problems
- They only live 7–9 years
- They can't breathe very well
- They have bad gas
- They can be stubborn
- You have to clean their wrinkles

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### History of English Bulldogs

There are a few different kinds of Bulldogs, like the American Bulldog, English Bulldog, and French Bulldog. The English Bulldog has a very interesting story. They were England around the time of 1630. They were really smart, strong, and tough dogs, so they were used to fight bulls! They had to guard bulls and chase them around to give them exercise. But this was dangerous for the dogs, so in the 19th century, there were laws passed that said this was **illegal**.

### Conclusion

English Bulldogs are amazing animals. They have a fascinating history and an unusual appearance. They are a wonderful dog to have with a family. If you have a bulldog or you are thinking of getting one, I recommend you do some more research. You can check out [bulldoginform.com](http://bulldoginform.com) or *Bulldog Life*. If you want to talk to other people that have English Bulldogs, you can check out the message board at [bulldoginform.com/English](http://bulldoginform.com/English). The English Bulldog is a peaceful, cute dog that deserves special care and attention.

In the conclusion, the writer restates the main points and offers a final insight for readers to consider.

The writer cites sources used.



Brindle color coat

Wrinkles around skull

#### English Bulldog Facts by the Numbers

- Height: 12–16 inches
- Cost: \$500–\$1200
- Weight: 45–55 pounds
- Average Life Span: 7–9 years
- Litter Size: 4–5 Puppies

The writer cites sources used.

### Sources

[WWW.bulldoginform.com](http://WWW.bulldoginform.com)

*Bulldog Life* by James Thomas (Schoolpub, 2009)

*This is a Bulldog* by Esther Gray (Schoolpub, 1976)