Dogs: Reading tasks

1. Do you know what the following expressions mean?
   a. It’s a dog’s life.
   b. In the today’s business world it’s a case of dog eat dog.
   c. He was dogged by ill health all his life.

2. The following are paragraph headings from the reading. Write down a few words you think will appear in each paragraph.
   Man’s best friend
   A rocket dog
   A loyal dog
   A war dog
   A rescue dog
   An intelligent dog

3. Vocabulary: Try and find the six nouns connected with dogs, and the six verbs.

   nouns
   verbs

4. The following verbs are associated with dogs, but they can be applied to humans too. Match the verbs with their meanings.
   a. snap 1. a crying sound that a dog makes, especially when it wants something
   b. snarl 2. the loud sound a dog makes when it’s excited
   c. bark 3. a long, loud cry a dog makes, especially when it is frightened or in pain
   d. growl 4. when a dog tries to bite something
   e. whine 5. a low sound that a dog makes to give a warning or show anger
   f. howl 6. to make a low sound while showing it’s teeth

5. Now choose a verb for each of the sentences below.
   a. The general _____ his orders at the soldiers.
   b. He _____ abuse at anyone who happened to walk past.
   c. ‘Please, please can I have some sweets, mummy?’ the little girl _____.
   d. It was awful – the baby was _____ the whole time I was there.
   e. The old man looked mean. ‘Don’t come any closer,’ he _____.
   f. My boss is in a terrible mood; she’s been _____ at people all day.

6. Do you agree with the following opinions that were expressed in the text?
   - A dog is ‘Man’s best friend’?
   - A dog’s most important role is that of companion.
   - Dogs have a special relationship with humans.
   - There’s something about Laika that touches the heart.
   - Perhaps even more touching is the story of Hachiko.
   - Bertie is an intelligent dog.