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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Lingohack

### Meet Britain's first trainee guide pony

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#### The story...

Meet Britain's first trainee guide pony

#### Learn language to describe...

performance

#### Need-to-know language

**hack it** – (informal) deal with a difficult situation

**coping** – dealing with a difficult situation

**take it ... in his stride** – deal with a difficult situation in a calm way

**naysayer** – person who says something can't be achieved

#### Answer this...

What's the advantage of having a guide horse rather than a guide dog?

#### Watch the video online

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/lingohack/ep-190424>

#### Transcript

The horse arriving on platform 1 is about to make history. Because while the odd one has travelled in a guard's van, no horse, to our knowledge, has ever ridden in a passenger carriage.

Digby's new owner is Helena from London. She's a regular commuter on the Underground, and having seen guide horses used in America, she'd like to do so here.

Compared to the short career of a guide dog, a working horse can be with owner for 30 years.

### **Helena, Digby's owner**

Guide dogs are fantastic animals but it's good to have choice. And a horse can be trained and they enjoy working. And they're great companions. So, why not?

20-month-old Digby was especially bred for this very job by Katy at her stables in Northallerton. This metro journey is a trial to see if he can **hack it**. He seems to be **coping** with the movement better than our cameraman.

### **Katy Smith, Digby's trainer**

I thought he would be good. I thought he would **take it all in his stride** but this is like, yeah, it's the first time ever... and I'm speechless to be fair.

### **Commuter 1**

What's a horse doing on the metro? I've never seen that before...

### **Commuter 2**

I think it's a good idea myself. Yeah, it's a change....

### **Commuter 3**

It's a horse, isn't it? Should be in a field not a train ...

So apart from the odd **naysayer**, people seem generally positive. Transport for London say they'll be monitoring Digby's progress.

### **Did you get it?**

What's the advantage of having a guide horse rather than a guide dog?

Guide dogs have a shorter career. Working horses can be with their owner for 30 years.