READ THE PASSAGE   Think about which statements are facts and which are opinions.

The Best Pets

Dogs make the best pets. They come in all sizes. Some dogs are as small as a football, and others are as tall as a desk. Dogs' fur is different, too. It can be tight with curls, long and silky, or smooth and stiff. The kind of fur does not matter, because all dogs are good to hug.

Dogs need to be groomed. Short-haired dogs are the easiest to care for. But all dogs need a bath once in a while. Giving a dog a bath is a lot of fun. When a dog is done getting bathed, it shakes the water off its body. Watch out or you will get wet!

Dogs like to please their owners, so dogs can be easy to train. They can follow simple commands and learn to walk on a leash.

Dogs truly are amazing animals. Some dogs pull sleds across icy places. Some save drowning people. Other dogs do tricks in movies. A dog has even flown in a rocket to outer space.

SKILL PRACTICE   Read the item. Write your response.

1. How many opinions are stated in the first paragraph? How do you know?

_____

_____

2. How many facts does the author use in the last paragraph? How do you know?

_____

_____

3. Do you think the author owns a dog? Explain.

_____

STRATEGY PRACTICE   Share with a partner what you visualized as you read the passage.