Why do dogs lick you?

Slurp! That tickles! Why do dogs lick you?



Why?

1. **A lick is a dog word.**
   Dogs can't talk with words. So they talk with their bodies. And a lick is one of their words!
2. **It starts with puppies.**
   Wild puppies wait for their mom to come home from hunting. Then they lick her mouth, as if to say, I'm hungry, please share! Many dog experts think dog kisses grew out of that puppy lick.
3. **A lick can mean lots of things.**
   A lick can mean hello, you're home! A lick can mean you're my family. It can make a dog feel calm and safe.

Try it! Read the whole dog

You need: a grown-up and a friendly dog

1. Next time a dog licks you, look at the rest of its body.
2. Is the body wiggly? Is the tail waggy?
3. Then wash your hands with soap and water.

What happened? A wiggly body and a waggy tail? That's a happy hello!

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/doglick

scan with a grown-up