

Asking for Directions

In this lesson, you will practice asking for directions and helping people who need directions.



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you sometimes ask people for directions on the street? Why or why not?
2. When was the last time you got lost?
3. Do you use a map when you are out of town?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. post office | a) to take someone's attention away from something or someone |
| _____ 2. out of town | b) it's easy or plain to see |
| _____ 3. interrupt | c) a place where you mail letters and buy stamps |
| _____ 4. block | d) one section of a street, a section between two crossroads |
| _____ 5. traffic light | e) a red, green, or amber light that tells people to stop, go, or slow down |
| _____ 6. you can't miss it | f) in a place where you are not a local resident |
| _____ 7. repeat | g) I understand |
| _____ 8. I've got it | h) to say again |



Dialogue Reading

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation.

Circle any new words or phrases that you need to practice.

Man on the street: Excuse me. **Can you tell me how to get to the post office?**

Second man: **I'm sorry. I don't know. I'm from out of town.**

(a minute later)

Man on the street: **Excuse me. Do you know where the post office is?**

Woman: **Sure. It's not far from here. Walk straight ahead** until you get to Main Street. Then...

Man on the street: Sorry to interrupt you. **How many blocks is that?**

Woman: **It's about two or three blocks. It's the first traffic light** you come to. When you get to Main Street, turn right and walk one block to Broadway. Then **turn left** and go about half a block.

Man on the street: Which side of the street is it on?

Woman: Coming from this direction, **it'll be on your right side.**
It's in the middle of the block, next to the Sweets Ice Cream Shop.
You can't miss it. Do you want me to repeat any of that?

Man on the street: **No, that's okay. I've got it.** Thanks a lot.

Woman: You're welcome.



Practice

Work with your partner. Role-play the dialogue on page 2, **substituting the different expressions below. Then switch roles.**

1. **Can you tell me how to get to the post office?**
 - **Can you tell me where the post office is?**
 - **Do you know where the post office is?**
2. Can you tell me how to get to the **post office**?
 - ...the museum
 - ...the zoo
 - ...the school
 - ...the train station
 - ...the theater
3. **I'm sorry. I don't know.**
 - I'm afraid not.
 - I'm afraid I can't.
4. **I'm from out of town.**
 - I don't live here. I'm just a visitor.
 - I really don't know the city very well.
5. **Sure. It's not far from here.**
 - Yes. It's quite close to here.
 - It's only about a ten-minute walk from here.
6. **Walk straight ahead** until you get to Main Street.
 - Walk down the street...
 - Walk three blocks...
 - Walk up the block...
 - Keep walking in this direction...
7. **How many blocks is that?**
 - How far is that?
8. **It's about two or three blocks.**
 - **It's about a five-minute walk.**
9. **It's the first traffic light** you come to.
 - It's the second intersection...
10. **Then turn left** and go about half a block.
 - Then turn right...
11. Coming from this direction, **it'll be on your right side.**
 - ...it's on your left.
12. **It's in the middle of the block...**
 - It's at the end of the block...
 - It's on the corner...
13.**next to the Sweets Ice Cream Shop.**
 - beside the bank.
 - between the pharmacy and the bank.
 - across the street from a big church.
14. **You can't miss it.**
 - **It's easy to find.**
15. **Do you want me to repeat any of that?**
 - Did you catch all of that?
 - Do you understand?
16. **No, that's okay. I've got it.**
 - Yes. It's very clear.
 - It's okay. I understand.

Answer Key

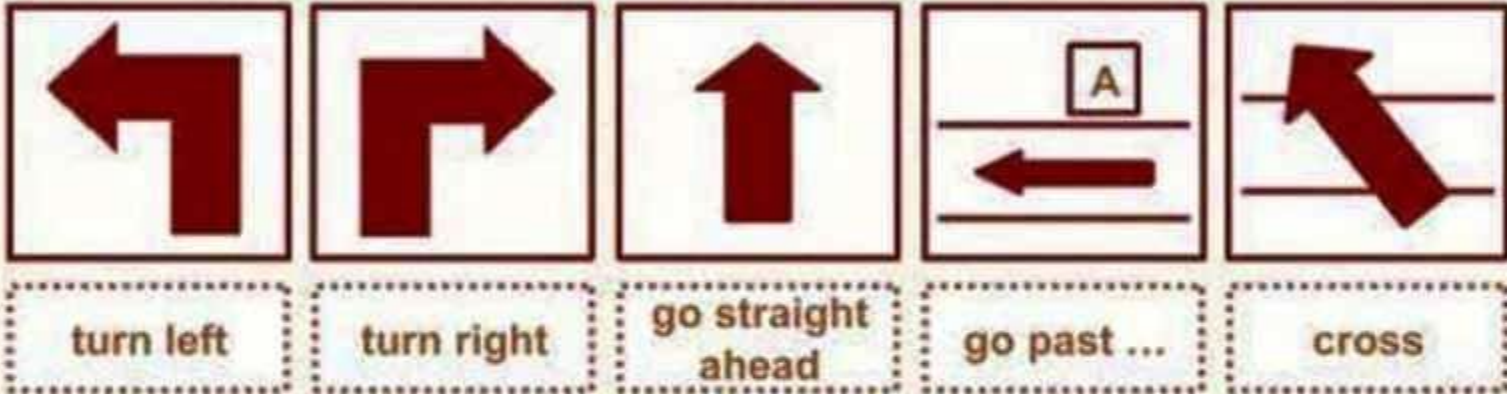
1. C
2. f
3. a
4. d
5. e
6. b
7. h
8. g

Asking for Directions

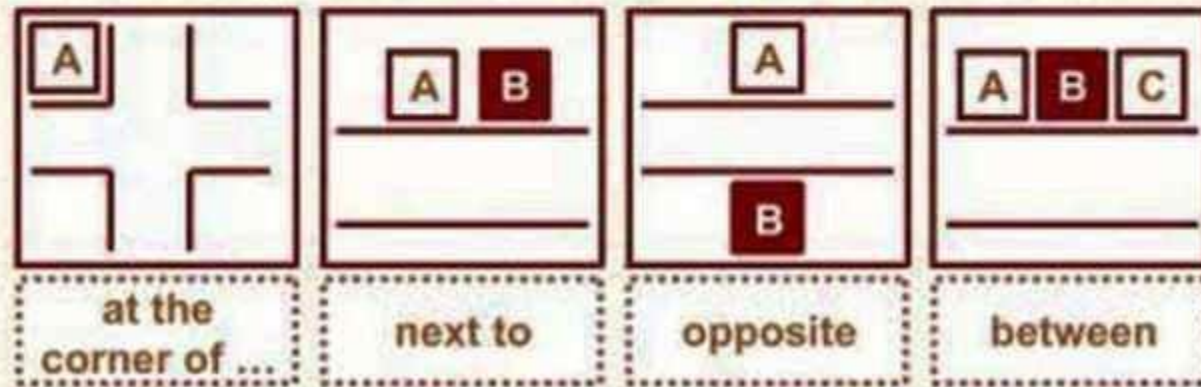
Giving Directions

PART ONE: Learn / revise some words and expressions related to directions.

VERBS



PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE



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