

Asking for and Giving Directions in English

Level: A2

Asking the way

Excuse me, where is the station?	Ask it to find one place in the town.	"Excuse me, where is the station?" "It's over there."
Is there a bank near here?	Ask it when you don't know if a place is close.	"Is there a bank near here?" "Yes, there is one in Park Street."
How do I get to the museum?	Ask it to know the way to a place.	"How do I get to the museum?" "Go straight on."
Can you tell me the way to the library?	Ask it in a polite way.	"Can you tell me the way to the library?" "Of course."
Is it far from here?	Ask it to know the distance.	"Is it far from here?" "No, it's not far."
How long does it take?	Ask it to know the time you need to arrive.	"How long does it take?" "About ten minutes."
Can you show me on the map?	Ask it when you want to see the place on a map.	"Can you show me on the map?" "Yes. We are here."

Giving directions

Go straight on.	Say it to tell a person to keep walking and not to turn.	"Go straight on for five minutes."
Turn left.	Say it to go to the left.	"Turn left at the bank."
Turn right.	Say it to go to the right.	"Turn right after the school."
Take the second street on the left.	Say it to count the streets.	"Take the second street on the left , and you'll see it."
Go past the bank.	Say it to walk by a place and not stop.	"Go past the bank and then turn right."
Turn left at the traffic lights.	Say it to use the lights as a point.	"Turn left at the traffic lights."
Go to the end of the street.	Say it to walk until the street finishes.	"Go to the end of the street and turn right."
Cross the road.	Say it to go to the other side.	"Cross the road at the lights."

Saying where a place is

It's next to the post office.	Say it for a place at the side of another place.	"It's next to the post office."
It's opposite the park.	Say it for a place on the other side of the street.	"The cafe? It's opposite the park. "
It's on the corner.	Say it for a place where two streets meet.	"It's on the corner, next to the bank."

It's between the bank and the shop.	Say it for a place with one place on each side.	"It's between the bank and the shop."
It's on your left.	Say it when the place is at your left side.	"Go straight on. It's on your left."
It's behind the church.	Say it for a place at the back of another place.	"The car park? It's behind the church."

Understanding and thanking

It's about five minutes on foot.	Say it to tell the time you need to walk.	"It's about five minutes on foot." "Great, thanks."
You can't miss it.	Say it when a place is easy to see.	"It's a big red building. You can't miss it."
Sorry, can you repeat that, please?	Ask it when you don't understand.	"Sorry, can you repeat that, please?" "Turn left at the bank."
Can you speak more slowly, please?	Ask it when the person speaks too fast.	"Can you speak more slowly, please?" "Sure."
Sorry, I don't know. I'm not from here.	Say it when you can't help.	"Where is the station?" "Sorry, I don't know. I'm not from here."
Thanks a lot for your help.	Say it to thank a person.	"Thanks a lot for your help." "You're welcome."

Exercise 1: Match the Phrase and the Situation

Match each phrase with the situation.

- How do I get to the museum? → _____
- Turn left at the traffic lights. → _____
- It's opposite the park. → _____
- It's on the corner. → _____
- Sorry, can you repeat that, please? → _____
- Is it far from here? → _____

The place is on the other side of the street. The place is where two streets meet. You ask for the way to a place. You didn't understand the directions. You tell a person where to turn: at the lights. You want to know the distance.

Exercise 2: What Do You Say?

Choose the best phrase for each situation.

- You are lost and you want the station. What do you say to a stranger?
a) Excuse me, where is the station? b) Turn left at the bank. c) You can't miss it.
- "Is there a bank near here?" "Yes, ___ the post office."
a) it's next to b) it's between c) turn next to

9. The person speaks too fast. What do you say?
a) Can you speak more slowly, please? b) Thanks a lot for your help. c) Go straight on.
10. You want to know the time you need to walk to the park. What do you ask?
a) How long does it take? b) Where is the park? c) Is there a park?
11. "It's ___ the school." (The cafe is on the other side of the street from the school.)
a) opposite b) behind c) between
12. "___ the road." (The person tells you to go to the other side of the street.)
a) Cross b) Turn c) Past
13. A tourist asks for the post office. You don't know the town. What do you say?
a) Sorry, I don't know. I'm not from here. b) You can't miss it. c) It's on your left.

Exercise 3: Complete the Dialogue

Type the missing word.

14. "How do I ___ to the museum?" "Go straight on."
15. "Go ___ the bank and then turn right." (p...)
16. "Turn ___ at the traffic lights." (You want to go to the right.)
17. "Go straight on. It's on your ___." (The place is on the left.)
18. "It's ___ the bank and the shop." (There is a place on each side.) (b...)
19. "Excuse me, is there a bank ___ here?" (n...)

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Phrase and the Situation

1. How do I get to the museum? → You ask for the way to a place.
2. Turn left at the traffic lights. → You tell a person where to turn: at the lights.
3. It's opposite the park. → The place is on the other side of the street.
4. It's on the corner. → The place is where two streets meet.
5. Sorry, can you repeat that, please? → You didn't understand the directions.
6. Is it far from here? → You want to know the distance.

Exercise 2: What Do You Say?

7. a) Excuse me, where is the station?
8. a) it's next to
9. a) Can you speak more slowly, please?
10. a) How long does it take?
11. a) opposite
12. a) Cross
13. a) Sorry, I don't know. I'm not from here.

Exercise 3: Complete the Dialogue

14. get
15. past
16. right
17. left
18. between
19. near