



## TALKING ABOUT DIRECTIONS

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### FIRST THINGS FIRST



I'ma say all the words inside my head  
I'm fired up and tired of the way that things have been, oh ooh  
The way that things have been, oh ooh  
♪ **Believer – Imagine Dragons**

**First**, you need to ask for directions:

**How do I get to ...** - This is the simplest way to ask someone for directions. When you use this phrase, the other person will either tell you which mode of transport (bus, underground) to take or will explain your route.

**Could you tell me the best way to get to ...** – This is a very polite way to ask for directions.

**Where exactly am I?** – if you are travelling to an English speaking country and you ask for directions, you still might get lost. And in order to get new directions, you might need to find out where exactly you are, for example which street you are on. If this is the case, ask this particular question.

**Where is ...** – This phrase is also useful when asking for directions. Usually, this phrase is used when you know you are very close to your destination, you just need a little guidance in finding the place.

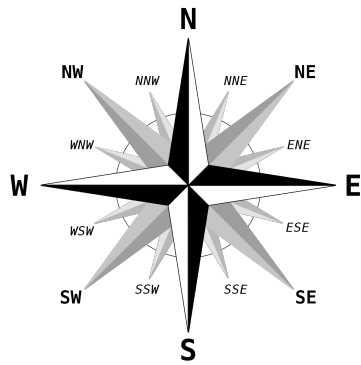
**Where is the post office?**  
**Do you know where is the church?**  
**How do I get to the museum?**  
**Where is the bathroom?**  
**Can you tell me the best way to get to your office?**  
**Can you tell me the best way to get to central station from here?**  
**Which road should I take to get to the stadium?**  
**How do I find an ATM?**  
**In which direction is the nearest bank?**  
**What is the quickest route to the mall?**  
**Can you show me which way to go using the map?**  
**Where is the theater?**  
**Can you give me quick directions to the club?**  
**What direction should I take?**  
**How do I get the freeway from here?**  
**What is the best way to get to Seattle?**  
**Is this the right way for Rhode Island?**  
**Could you please guide me?**  
*\\mode stalker on Can I follow you? \\mode stalker off*

**SECOND THINGS SECOND**



Don't you tell me what you think that I can be  
 I'm the one at the sail, I'm the master of my sea, oh ooh  
 The master of my sea, oh ooh  
 ♪ **Believer – Imagine Dragons**

**Second**, you must be able to understand the directions:



**N - North**

**NE – Northeast** – halfway between north and east, is the opposite of southwest.

**E - East**

**SE – Southeast** – halfway between south and east, is the opposite of northwest.

**S - South**

**SW – Southwest** – halfway between south and west, is the opposite of northeast.

**W - West**

**NW – Northwest** – halfway between north and west, is the opposite of southeast.

↑ go straight

↑ straight ahead

↑ go up

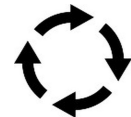
↓ go down

→ go right

↷ turn right

← go left

↶ turn left



roundabout



U turn  
turn around



traffic light



crosswalk  
zebra-crossing



or  
go up



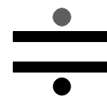
or  
go down



at the corner of ...



next to ...  
near to ...  
close to ...



opposite



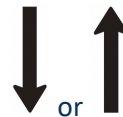
between



cross



two-way traffic



or  
one-way traffic



give way  
yield

**Some abbreviations:**

- St.** – street
- Ave.** – avenue
- Blvd.** – Boulevard
- Rd.** – Road
- Hwy.** – Highway
- Pkwy.** – Parkway

- Ln.** – Lane
  - fast lane
  - traffic lane
- km** – kilometres
- mt** – meters
- mi** – miles (1,6 km)

### THIRD THINGS THIRD



Send a prayer to the ones up above  
All the hate that you've heard  
Has turned your spirit to a dove, oh-oooh  
Your spirit up above, oh-oooh  
♪ **Believer – Imagine Dragons**

Third, you must be able to give directions

#### If you don't know the way:

Don't guess! Don't just shake your head and walk away. Use one of these phrases:

**I'm sorry, I'm not from here.**

**I'm afraid I can't help you.**

**Sorry I don't know my way around here.**

Offer another solution:

**You could ask the bus driver.**

**Ask the front desk clerk.**

#### If you know the way:

Use basic English and imperative sentences to offer directions. Short clauses are best. Speak slowly and use very careful pronunciation. Spell out a word if necessary.

**The easiest way is to...**

**The quickest way is to...**

**The best way is to...**

**go + direction (right, left, down, up, through)**

**take + road name**

**turn + right/left**

**stay on + road name for + distance, time or how many blocks**

**The easiest way is to go right on Commercial Avenue.**

**The quickest way is to take Road Number 1.**

**The best way is to turn right on Main Street.**

**Stay on Route 1 for about ten minutes.**

Separate each leg of the route with a transition.

**after that ...**

**then ...**

**next ...**

**when you get to...go...**

**finally ...**

Offer rough estimates of time or length of travel. Some people feel better knowing how long it will take to get from A to B.

**It's just around the corner (not far).**

**It's not far.**

**It's a bit of a way. (it takes a while)**

**It's about a five minute walk.**

**It's about a twenty minute bus ride.**

Use landmarks, tell the person what to watch for.

**You will see a large clock on the right.**

**You will pass a gas station.**

**It's across from the blue church.**

More useful language:

**It's on + street name ...**

**It's across from ...**

**It's opposite ...**

**It's near ...**

**It's around the corner from ...**

Offer warnings:

**Stay in the right lane.**

**It's a very busy road.**

**It's a big hill.** (if they are walking or on a bike)

**There might be construction.**

**If you pass the blue tower you went too far.**

**There's no parking.**

Repeat yourself:

If you repeat the directions again, the other person will feel more confident.

Repeat important details including street names and turns. You can also ask the other person to repeat the directions back to you.

Clarify:

Make sure that the other person understood your directions.

**Did you get all that?**

**Did you get it?**

Offer another solution:

**Follow me. I'll show you the way.**

**Do you want me to draw you a map?**

**If you are in the car with the driver:**

Give a lot of warning.

**Turn right at the next street.**

**Get in the left lane.**

**Go one more block. Then turn right.**

**At the next traffic lights turn right.**

**It's going to be on your right.**



**Example of an address:**

John Farias

444 Oakland Ave. Apt 107, California, FL

44326543, USA

**"Read the directions and directly  
you will be directed in the right direction."  
(Alice in Wonderland)**