

# Language Learning Center

## Self-Directed Learning Activities

### SL1. Asking for and Giving Directions: Part 1

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 1: Introduction

Nowadays, most people have GPS (Global Positioning Systems) on their phones, so we don't have to ask for directions as much as we did in the past, but what if your phone dies? Or what if you are on vacation and don't have cell phone service? Or what if you simply want to practice your English speaking and listening skills? There are many situations when you might need to ask for or give directions. Watch this video about a couple on vacation asking for directions; then, answer the questions below: <https://tinyurl.com/directionvideo>.

1. What did the man say when he gave directions? Fill in the blanks below:
2. "So you're going to head \_\_\_\_\_ north. When you get to get to Joey's Pizza, \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_. Then, you're going to go \_\_\_\_\_. There's a hot dog cart on this corner, you're going to \_\_\_\_\_ at that hot dog cart and \_\_\_\_\_ past this \_\_\_\_\_ and it's going to be right in front of you. \_\_\_\_\_!"
4. The student's directions were "spot on". What do you think "spot on" means?
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did the tourists really need directions? What were they really doing?
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

In this SDLA, you will use the Mt.SAC campus map to improve on giving directions to others.

## Section 2: Getting around Mt. SAC

Did you know that Mt. SAC is one of the largest community colleges in California? With such a large campus and so many students, it can be difficult to find your way around. The good news, however, is that once you know how to get around Mt. SAC, you will be able to help other students that might be lost. The first thing you need to do is know where to quickly find a map of the school. If you follow the directions below, you will discover an easy way to find a Mt. SAC campus map.

1. Go to <http://www.mtsac.edu/maps/>
2. You will see a map of the campus. For a more detailed map, click on “Print” at the top right corner.



## Activity 1: Organizing Directions

-Look at the map of Mt. SAC. Can you find building 66 and building 6? Building 66 is the Language Center where most of the non-credit ESL classes are held. The directions below explain how to get from building 66 to building 6. However, the steps are out of order. You need to put the directions in the correct order so they are easy to follow. Write the correct number next to each step to put them in the correct order. The first one has been done for you.

Step Number	Directions
# _____	_____ When you see Building 16 D on your left, turn left.
# _____	_____ Go straight past the planetarium and past the Express Stop.
# _____	_____ Keep going straight and you will see building 6 on your right.
# <b>1</b>	<i>The easiest way is to exit building 66 toward staff parking lot D-3 and turn right.</i>
# _____	_____ Walk straight on the main path past the swimming pool towards the planetarium.
# _____	_____ Follow the path to the right and you will pass Founders Hall (building 10) on the right.

### Section 3: Tips on Giving Directions

Here are some helpful tips on how to give directions to others. Follow these tips, and you'll be a pro at giving directions in no time.

1. Use short phrases with **the imperative form or the future (will / be going to)**. Speak slowly and use very careful pronunciation.
2. Begin with an introductory phrase to put the listener at ease:
  - a. The easiest way is to . . .
  - b. The quickest way is to . . .
  - c. The best way is to . . .
3. Use transitions, words or phrases that signal a new idea/topic:
  - after that
  - then
  - next
  - finally

**You Try:** Add transitions and phrases to steps 2-6 on the spaces provided in the directions on page 2 (Activity 1 in Section 2).

4. Use set phrases:

**Go/continue  
straight**

**Turn  
left/right  
Make a**

**Go/Walk  
towards**

**Keep going**

**You Try:** Circle any of the set phrases in the directions of Activity 1 in Section 2.

5. Use landmarks, objects or structures on land that are easy to see and recognize. Landmarks tell the person what to look out for. Examples:

- When you see Mountie Café (on your left/right), turn...
- You will see a large clock (on your left/right).
- Continue until you see the library (on your left/right).
- You will pass a big parking lot (on your left/right).

**You Try:** What are three landmarks used in the directions of Activity 1 in Section 2?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Adapted from: English Club. (1997-2015). How to Give Directions. <https://edition.englishclub.com/survival/how-to-give-directions/>*

### **Section 4: Student Self-Assessment**

*Complete this self-assessment before meeting with a tutor. Now that you've completed sections 1 to 3,  check the things you can do:*

- I can find the Mt. SAC campus map on the Mt. SAC website.
- I can organize directions into the correct sequential order.
- I can use appropriate language such as transition words and set phrases when giving directions.

**GOOD job!** Now make an appointment with a tutor at the Front Desk.

**The tutor will call your name when he/she is ready.**

**Section 5: Practice with a tutor!**

After completing the self- assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. To make sure you understand how to give directions, the tutor will ask you how to get from building 66 to building 4. Read the paragraph below before you give your directions. The tutor will give you feedback in the chart below.

*Another important building on campus is Administration, building 4. This is where you can purchase a parking permit. To park your car on campus, you must get a new parking permit each semester. Without a parking permit, you may receive a ticket. Now it's your turn to give directions. Use the Mt. SAC campus map to give directions from building 66 to building 4. Remember to use the tips you learned in Section 3.*

**Grading Rubric**

Possible Points	1 Point	3 Points	5 Points
<b>Content</b>	Student does not provide accurate directions and does not use landmarks or set phrases.	Student provides generally accurate directions with the imperative form and uses landmarks and set phrases some of the time with minor mistakes.	Student provides accurate directions with the imperative form and uses landmarks and set phrases appropriately.
<b>Skill: Speaking</b>	Student's speech is unclear and requires frequent listener effort.	Student's speech is generally clear but requires occasional listener effort.	Student's speech is clear and smooth and requires minimal listener effort.
<b>Oral Fluency</b>	Speaks in incomplete sentences that do not flow.	Speaks in complete sentences some of the time with frequent pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences with occasional pauses most of the time.

Possible Points \_\_\_\_\_ / 15

**\*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on.**

**Tutor Recommendations:**

**Congratulations! Move on**  
 Student has successfully completed this SDLA and is ready to continue to the next.

**Repeat**  
 Student hasn't yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that the student complete it again.

**Tutor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_