

How to Ask for and Give Directions in English

Stop a stranger, follow the answer, guide a tourist — in English

EPISODE 20 • LEVEL B1-B2

Episode summary

- Being lost is not an English failure — natives get lost every day. The fear is two-sided: afraid to ask, afraid to answer. This episode trains both sides, then flips you into the guide.
- Ask with five frames: “could you tell me how to get to the station,” “where is the nearest pharmacy,” “how do I get to the city center,” “is it far from here,” “could you show me on the map” — plus the bus, taxi, and restroom frames.
- Follow the answer with ten direction words: go straight, turn left, turn right, past, next to, across from, at the corner of, on your left/right, keep going, landmark. Ten words catch every answer.
- Give directions in three beats: start with a landmark, give the turns in order, end with a checkpoint (“you cannot miss it”). If you do not know, the honest rescue — “I am sorry, I am not from around here” — is still English.
- Street drills: the phone-dead drill (ask three people, repeat it back, say thank you), the map mission (draw your street, describe it out loud three times), and the tourist challenge (answer in English first).

What's inside this PDF

20 key words • the five ask-frames chart • the ten direction words chart
• Say It Better upgrades • 3 practice exercises

Key Vocabulary

20 words from this episode — learn them, then use them this week

1. landmark

a big thing you cannot miss, like a tower or a park.

> Do you see the tall white building? Start there.

2. block

the distance between two streets.

> Go straight for two blocks.

3. intersection

where two streets cross.

> Turn left at the next intersection.

4. corner

where two streets meet at the edge.

> The cafe is at the corner.

5. straight

going forward without turning.

> Go straight, no turns.

6. across from

on the other side of the street.

> The bank is across from the hotel.

7. turn

to change direction.

> Turn right at the traffic light.

8. past

going by something without stopping.

> Walk past the bank.

9. next to

touching, beside.

> The pharmacy is next to the bank.

10. keep going

to continue without stopping.

> Keep going until you see the bridge.

11. traffic light

the red, yellow, green signal.

> Turn left at the traffic light.

12. roundabout

a circle in the road where cars turn.

> Walk past the roundabout.

13. checkpoint

the thing that tells you that you arrived.

> End with a checkpoint: you cannot miss it.

14. walking distance

close enough to walk to.

> Is it within walking distance?

15. excuse me

the polite opener for any stranger.

> Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the station?

16. restroom

a toilet in a public place.

> Excuse me, is there a restroom nearby?

17. pharmacy

a shop that sells medicine.

> Where is the nearest pharmacy?

18. lost

not knowing where you are.

> I was lost for forty minutes.

19. guide

in this episode: the person who shows the way.

> Today we flip you into the guide.

20. rescue

to save a bad moment.

> The honest rescue sentence: I am not from around here.

The Street in Three Beats

ask, follow, guide — the whole episode on one card

Ask: five frames

“Could you tell me how to get to the station. Where is the nearest pharmacy. How do I get to the city center. Is it far from here. Could you show me on the map.”

Follow: ten words

Go straight, turn left, turn right, past, next to, across from, at the corner of, on your left/right, keep going, landmark.

Guide: three beats

Start with a landmark, give the turns in order, end with a checkpoint. “You cannot miss it.”

Rescue: the honest sentence

“I am sorry, I am not from around here, but let me help you ask someone.” Honest and kind.

Drill: three people, three beats

Phone dead? Ask three people, repeat it back, say thank you. Describe your own street out loud three times.

Say It Better — 10 upgrades

☐ “Where is the station?”

☐ “Excuse me, could you tell me where the station is?”

☐ “Go left.”

☐ “Turn left.”

☐ “It is near.”

☐ “It is about a ten minute walk.”

☐ “The bank is close.”

☐ “The bank is right next to the post office.”

☐ “I don't know.” (a tourist asks)

☐ “I am sorry, I am not from around here, but let me help you ask someone.”

☐ “How long?”

☐ “How far is it from here?”

☐ “Stop there.” (on the bus)

☐ “Could you tell me where to get off?”

☐ “Where museum?”

☐ “How do I get to the museum from here?”

☐ “Is it far?” (vague)

☐ “Is it within walking distance?”

☐ “Taxi, airport.”

☐ “Could you take me to the airport, please?”

Practice Time

3 exercises — do them today, not “someday”

Exercise 1 — Fill in the blank

Word bank: landmark • block • corner • straight • across from

1. Start every answer with a big, easy-to-see _____.
2. Go _____ for two _____.
3. Turn left at the _____ of Main Street.
4. The library is _____ the park.
5. The _____ is the checkpoint: you cannot miss it.

Exercise 2 — Say it like a local

Upgrade each one to smooth street English (answers below):

1. “Where station?” > Stop a stranger politely:
2. “I don't know the way.” > A tourist asks you:
3. “Bus stop now.” > On the bus:

Exercise 3 — The full street walk

Out loud, describe the route from your home to the nearest station in English: start with a landmark, give the turns in order, end with a checkpoint. Three times — slow, faster, eyes closed. Under one minute means you own your street.

- Ask: Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the station.
- Follow: Go straight, turn right, across from the market.
- Guide: You cannot miss it.

Answer key

Ex 1: 1 landmark • 2 straight, blocks • 3 corner • 4 across from • 5 checkpoint

Ex 2: 1 “Excuse me, could you tell me where the station is?” 2 “I am sorry, I am not from around here, but let me help you ask someone.” 3 “Could you tell me where to get off?”