

## Giving Directions

There are many specific expressions we use when directing someone to a particular place. First, we usually use simple commands (the imperative form, which uses the simple, or main, verb form), as in:



- ▶ Walk two blocks west.
- ▶ Turn right.
- ▶ Drive south for three miles, then follow the signs to Lake Wylie.
- ▶ Stop at the third house.
- ▶ Look for a store that sells bicycles.

Or sometimes we might add *you*: “You walk two blocks west, and then you turn right.”

Many special words and expressions deal with geographical location and position. They have been arranged here according to how they function in a sentence or a simple command. Here are some verbs commonly used when giving directions to a place. Can you think of others?

- |            |   |                 |         |
|------------|---|-----------------|---------|
| • go       | • turn  | • take (a left) | • _____ |
| • walk     | • get on/off  | • look          | • _____ |
| • drive    | • continue  | • stop          | • _____ |
| • head for | • keep + VERB + ing (going, driving, walking, etc.) |                 |         |

Now let's examine some standard spatial expressions we often use when describing a location or position. Notice that many of them are prepositions or prepositional phrases or contain them:

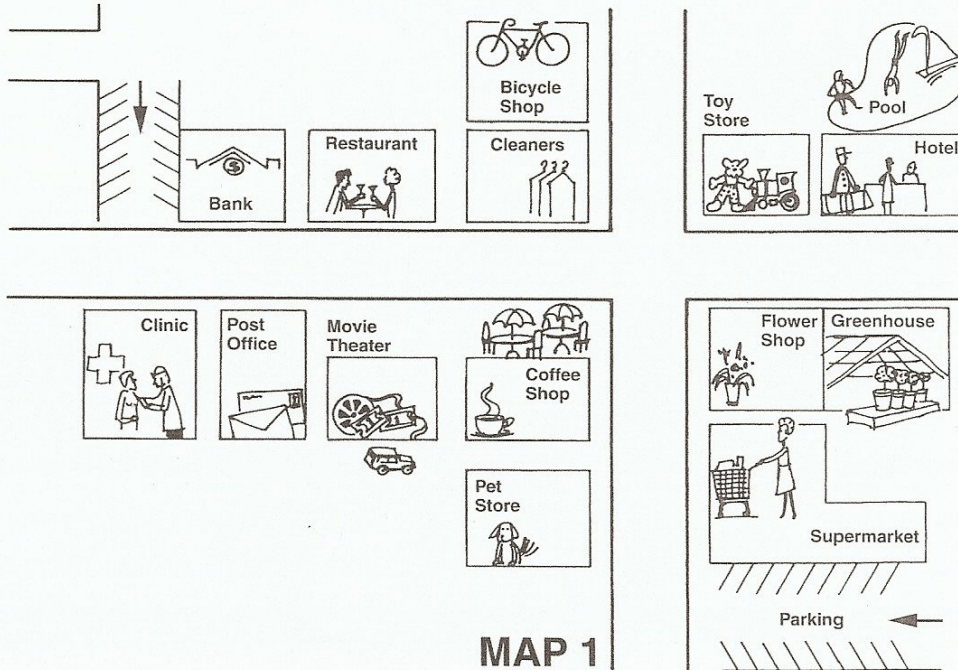
- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| • near              | • on the opposite side of (the street from) |
| • between           | • around the corner from                    |
| • next to/beside    | • on your left/right (-hand side)           |
| • in front of       | • on the corner (of)                        |
| • behind            | • on (street name)                          |
| • across from       | • _____                                     |
| • adjacent to°      | • _____                                     |
| • to the left/right | • _____                                     |

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Adjacent to means “very close; touching, or almost touching.”



Look at Map 1 and notice how some of the expressions following it are used to show location, position, and relationship.



- ▶ The pet store is *beside/next to* the coffee shop.
- ▶ The movie theater is *between* the post office and the coffee shop.
- ▶ The coffee shop is *across from/across the street from* the cleaners.
- ▶ A parking lot is *adjacent to* the bank.

### Practice 1

Now you try it. Using the same map, fill in the blanks with some of the words and expressions listed on page 84. You may be able to use more than one expression to indicate the location.

1. The pet store is \_\_\_\_\_ the movie theater.
2. The toy store is \_\_\_\_\_ the cleaners.

3. The bank is \_\_\_\_\_ the restaurant.
4. The car is \_\_\_\_\_ the movie theater.
5. The toy store is \_\_\_\_\_ the flower shop.

## Practice 2

Now write a sentence that tells the location or the relationship of one place to another, using the same map.

EXAMPLE: toy store/hotel



The toy store is next to the hotel.

1. post office/movie theater \_\_\_\_\_
2. greenhouse°/flower shop \_\_\_\_\_
3. pool/hotel \_\_\_\_\_
4. restaurant/bicycle shop \_\_\_\_\_
5. tables and chairs/coffee shop \_\_\_\_\_

When we're giving both directions and instructions, we often want to indicate chronological (time) order; we do this by using certain words, also called transitional devices, such as the following:

- first (second, third, etc.)
- next
- after that
- then
- now
- afterward
- finally
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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A greenhouse is a building made of glass, used for growing plants that need special conditions: sunlight, heat, and so on.



Some other nouns and miscellaneous words and expressions you might need in directing people to places are as follows:

- intersection (“at the intersection of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_”—street names)
- crosswalk (a marked area on a street where people should cross)
- traffic light/signal
- stop sign
- corner
- block (“Walk three blocks” or “It’s three blocks from . . .”)
- parallel (streets run like \_\_\_\_\_ )
- perpendicular (streets run like \_\_\_\_\_ )
- dead end (when the street ends and there’s no way to get out without turning around; also called “no outlet”)
- uptown/downtown (usually no distinction made between them except in a few cities, like New York, that have specific sections: Uptown, Downtown, Midtown)
- north/south/east/west
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, when you have given the directions, you might say something to indicate you’ve finished:



- ▶ You can’t miss it!
- ▶ You’ll run right into it! (You’ll drive or walk right up to it.)
- ▶ You’ll see it immediately.
- ▶ It’s right there.
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice 3

Look at Map 2 on page 88 and tell a stranger how to get from one place to another, according to the clues.

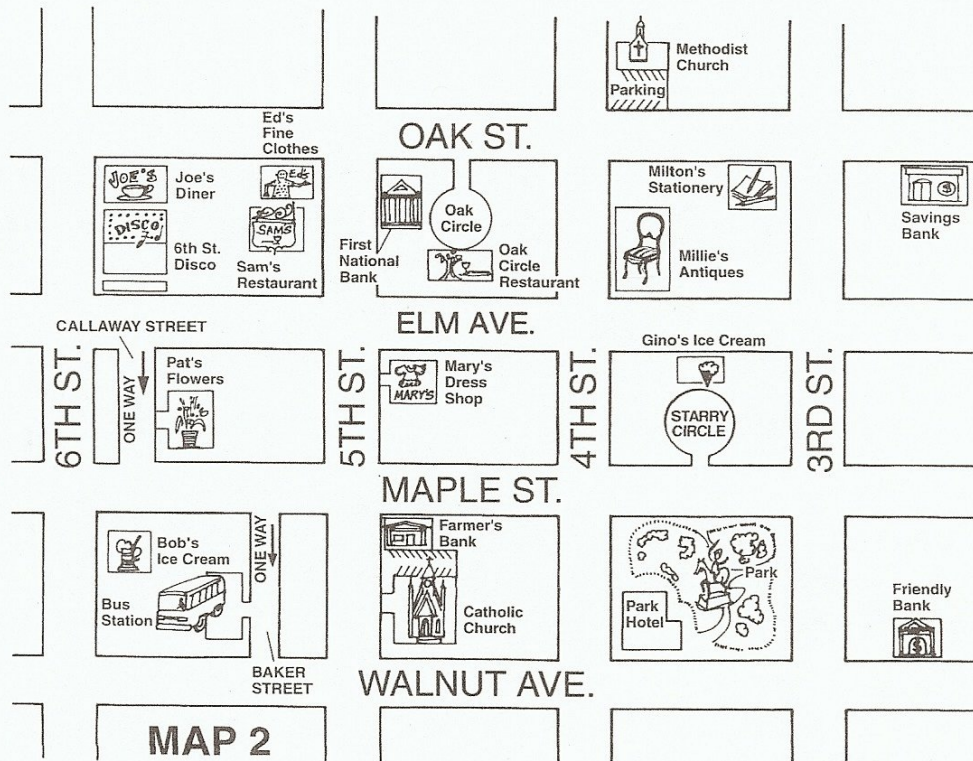


**EXAMPLE:**

From Mary's Dress Shop to the Methodist Church



If you leave Mary's Dress Shop by the 5th Street exit, turn right onto 5th Street and go through the intersection and up one block to Oak Street. Take a right onto Oak and walk one block. Then turn left onto 4th Street, and the Methodist Church is the first building on your right, next to a parking lot. You can't miss it!



1. From Friendly Bank to Oak Circle Restaurant
2. From Millie's Antiques<sup>o</sup> to the Catholic Church
3. From Sam's Restaurant to Gino's Ice Cream Parlor

Antiques are pieces of furniture, jewelry, and other items that are old and becoming rare and valuable.

4. From Gino's Ice Cream Parlor to the 6th Street Disco
5. From the Savings Bank to Mary's Dress Shop

### Practice 4

Choose a partner and use the same map. This time, pretend you are at the Park Hotel on Walnut Avenue and you need directions to the following places. Create a short conversation between yourself and your partner. If you don't understand any part of the directions, ask your partner to repeat it.

1. Directions to Oak Circle Restaurant
2. Directions to Milton's Stationery Store
3. Directions to Pat's Flower Shop
4. Directions to the First National Bank
5. Directions to the bus station

Bundt Cake  
Pumpkin Chocolate Chip  
Oatmeal Cookies  
Pumpkin Cinnamon  
Muffins  
Pumpkin Pancakes with  
Cinnamon Syrup  
Rhubarb Apple Cinnamon  
Muffins  
Rhubarb Scones  
Roasted Butternut Squash  
Pizza with Caramelized