Prepositions of Direction

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1 Picture Dictionary 1

Prepositions of Direction

- across from
- around the corner from
- at 123 Main Street
- behind
- between
- far from
- in front of
- kitty-corner to
- near
- next to / beside
- on Main Street
- on the corner of
2 Picture Dictionary 2

In the City

bank
theater
hospital
gas station

library
grocery store
shopping mall
bakery

laundromat
bus stop
park
parking lot
A. Introduction

Prepositions of direction are words (such as on, between, and other prepositions of place) and expressions (such as around the corner from and kitty-corner to) that show the location of an object. They are common to use when giving directions.

B. Pattern

Here is a common sentence pattern to use when describing the location of a building in a city:

The + [noun] + is + [preposition] + the + [noun].

Examples:

- The bank is between the grocery store and the bakery.
- The bank is around the corner from the theater.
- The bus stop is across from the library.
4 Matchup

Draw a line from the preposition to the matching picture.

1. behind
2. between
3. around the corner from
4. far from
5. kitty-corner to
6. in front of
7. across from
8. next to

a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
5 Fill in the Blanks

Write the correct preposition from the box in the blanks.

1. The bank is ____________ the grocery store.
2. The grocery store is ______________ the gas station.
3. The bus stop is ______________ the grocery store.
4. The library is ______________ the grocery store.
5. The bank and the grocery store are _____________ Main Street.
6. The library is ______________ 345 Main Street.
7. The hospital is ______________ Main Street and Smith Street.
8. The car is parked ______________ the bank.

Word List:
- on the corner of
- behind
- next to
- on
- across from
- kitty-corner to
- at
- in front of
6 Listen & Draw

Listen to the recording.
Draw the missing items on the map.

Main Street

Smith Street

Library
In the City

Asking for & Giving Directions

A. Asking for Directions

There are a few different ways to politely ask for directions in English.

Examples:
• Do you know where the bank is?
• Could you please tell me where the bank is?
• Can you tell me where the nearest bank is?
• Sorry to bother you, but I’m looking for the bank.

B. Giving Directions

There are many ways to give someone directions in English.

Examples:
• Walk up Main Street for three blocks. It’s between the bakery and the laundromat.
• Go along Main Street until you see the mall. The parking lot is behind the mall.
• The nearest bus stop is in front of the laundromat. Head down Main Street and turn left.
• Go down Main Street to the corner. It’s kitty-corner to the theater.
• Walk two blocks and make a right. It’s around the corner from the library.
8 Unscramble the Sentences

Rewrite the sentences in the correct order.

1. blocks / on / two / walk / Jones / Street
   **Walk two blocks on Jones Street.**

2. walk / Main / along / Street

3. right / turn / Avenue / on / Sunset

4. down / Union / head / Street

5. on / Avenue / First / left / turn

6. up / Mission / until / bank / see / Street / you / the / head

7. left / three / go / make / a / and / blocks

8. one / walk / and / block / turn / right

9. and / up / go / Street / turn / left / Cherry

10. you / 35th / turn / get / to / Avenue / right / when
9 Map & Dialogues

A. Map

Look over the map.
You will use it in the dialogues on page 11.
Map & Dialogues cont.

B. Dialogues

With a partner, read Dialogues 1 and 2 out loud. Then write Dialogues 3 and 4 together using the map on page 10.

Dialogue 1

A  Excuse me. Could you please tell me how to get to the bakery?

B  Certainly. Go along Main Street for two blocks. The bakery is on the corner of Main Street and Summer Street.

A  Thanks. I appreciate it.

B  You’re welcome.

Dialogue 2

A  Excuse me. Can you please tell me how to get to the theater?

B  Sure. Walk one block and turn right on Smith Street. Go half a block. It’s on your left next to the grocery store.

A  Thanks a lot.

B  No problem.

Dialogue 3

A  Excuse me. Could you please tell me how to get to the ________________?

B  Sure. ____________________________ ____________________________ .

A  ______________________ . I appreciate it.

B  You’re ______________________ .

Dialogue 4

A  ________________________________________________________________

B  ________________________________________________________________

A  ________________________________________________________________

B  ________________________________________________________________
10 Find the Errors

Find one error in each sentence. Rewrite the correct sentences.

1. The hospital is kitty-corner of the shopping mall.
   The hospital is kitty-corner to the shopping mall.

2. The bank is in the corner of Pine Street and 2nd Avenue.

3. Turn left and walk Station Street down.

4. The park is near gas station.

5. The bus stop is in front on the park.

6. Walk three block down Pine Street.

7. Turn right and heads up Seymour Avenue.

8. The parking lot behind the bakery.

9. Laundromat is far from the bank.

10. Turn left on the Smith Street.
**A Answer Key**

**Lesson Description:**

Students learn to use prepositions to describe their surroundings in a city and give and comprehend directions. This lesson includes picture dictionaries, pair work tasks, and various map activities.

**Level:** Low Int – Int

**Time:** 2–3 hours

**Tags:** preposition, prepositions, directions, prepositions of direction, prepositions of place, city, buildings, map, grammar, grammar lesson, fun grammar lesson, speaking, listening, drawing, picture dictionary

**4 Matchup**

1. c  
2. b  
3. d  
4. e  
5. h  
6. g  
7. f  
8. a

**5 Fill in the Blanks**

1. next to  
2. kitty-corner to  
3. in front of  
4. across from  
5. on  
6. at  
7. on the corner of  
8. behind

**6 Listen & Draw**

Play the recording or read the transcript out loud. Give students a minute to draw each building in the appropriate location. To correct it, you may want to sketch the map to the right on the whiteboard or hold up the Answer Key so that students can check their work.

**Transcript:**

1. The hospital is beside the library.
2. The park is kitty-corner to the library.
3. The bus stop is in front of the hospital.
4. The grocery store is across from the library.
5. The hospital is between the library and the bank.

(continued on the next page...
A Answer Key cont.

8 Unscramble the Sentences

1. Walk two blocks on Jones Street.
2. Walk along Main Street.
3. Turn right on Sunset Avenue.
4. Head down Union Street.
5. Turn left on First Avenue.
6. Head up Mission Street until you see the bank.
7. Go three blocks and make a left. / Make a left and go three blocks.
8. Walk one block and turn right. / Turn right and walk one block.
9. Go up Cherry Street and turn left. / Turn left and go up Cherry Street.
10. When you get to 35th Avenue, turn right. / Turn right when you get to 35th Avenue.

10 Find the Errors

1. The hospital is kitty-corner to the shopping mall.
2. The bank is on the corner of Pine Street and 2nd Avenue.
3. Turn left and walk down Station Street.
4. The park is near the gas station.
5. The bus stop is in front of the park.
6. Walk three blocks down Pine Street.
7. Turn right and head up Seymour Avenue.
8. The parking lot is behind the bakery.
9. The laundromat is far from the bank.
10. Turn left on Smith Street.

Spelling Note:
This lesson shows the American spelling of the word Theater. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: Theatre. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.

Grammar Note:
Note that far from is technically an adverb, but we’ve included it in this lesson as a preposition expression in contrast with near. For a discussion on prepositions vs. adverbs, see our blog post: http://blog.esllibrary.com/2013/05/09/preposition-or-adverb/

9 Map & Dialogues

A. Map
Have students study the map individually for a few minutes. Alternatively, pair students up and have them take turns describing the location of the buildings using prepositions of place.

B. Dialogues
Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct pronunciation and preposition usage. You could also have each pair act out one of their dialogues in front of the class. You may want to teach them how to politely tell someone that they can’t give directions. (E.g., Sorry, I’m not sure where the bank is. I’m not from around here.)