

How Do I Get There?

Directions & Public Transport

"Excuse me, how do I get to the station?" "Turn left at the traffic lights." "Get off at the third stop." Getting around in English is easier than you think — you just need the right words.

Level: A2 (Elementary)	Duration: 45 minutes
Age Group: Teens (11-16)	Skill: Vocabulary

Learning Objectives:

- Use 12 key direction and transport vocabulary items in context
- Ask for directions using polite phrases
- Give clear step-by-step directions using imperatives
- Describe locations using prepositions of place
- Use basic transport phrases for buying tickets and asking about routes

01 — Warm-up

Think about your daily journeys and answer in full sentences.

1. How do you get to school every day? Do you walk, take a bus, or get a lift?
2. Have you ever been lost in a city or town? What happened?
3. Do you prefer travelling by bus, train, or car? Why?
4. If a tourist stopped you on the street and asked for directions in English, what would you do?

02 — Key Vocabulary

Words for directions & transport

Word	Meaning	Example
GIVING DIRECTIONS		
go straight	continue forward without turning	<i>Go straight for about two minutes.</i>
turn left / right	change direction to the left or right	<i>Turn left at the traffic lights.</i>
cross	walk from one side of a road to the other	<i>Cross the road at the zebra crossing.</i>
opposite	on the other side, directly facing	<i>The pharmacy is opposite the supermarket.</i>
next to	very close to; beside	<i>The library is next to the bank.</i>
between	in the middle of two things	<i>The cafe is between the bookshop and the cinema.</i>
PUBLIC TRANSPORT		
bus stop	the place where you wait for a bus	<i>Wait at the bus stop on Park Street.</i>
platform	the raised area where you get on a train	<i>The train leaves from platform 3.</i>
get off	to leave a bus, train or tram	<i>Get off at the third stop.</i>
get on	to enter a bus, train or tram	<i>We got on the wrong bus!</i>
timetable	a list showing when buses/trains arrive	<i>Check the timetable before you go.</i>

Word	Meaning	Example
<i>single ticket</i>	a ticket for one journey, not a return	<i>A single ticket to the city centre, please.</i>

03 — Polite Phrases Toolkit

Essential phrases for asking and giving directions

Asking Where: *"Excuse me, where is the nearest bus stop?"*

Start with 'Excuse me' - it's polite.

Asking How: *"How do I get to the train station?"*

Asks for step-by-step directions.

Describing Location: *"It's opposite the supermarket."*

Also: next to, between.

Buying a Ticket: *"A return ticket to Oxford, please."*

Single = one way. Return = there and back.

Asking Distance: *"Is it far from here?"*

Answer: 'about five minutes' or 'take a bus'.

On the Bus/Train: *"Does this bus go to the shopping centre?"*

Always check before you get on!

04 — Reading: Four Teens, Four Journeys

We asked four teenagers from around the world: 'Tell us about a time you had to find your way somewhere.' Here are their stories.

Lena, 14, Germany *Stress level: 2/10*

"Last week, my cousin visited from Hamburg and wanted to see the old castle. I knew the way! We walked out of the station and I said: 'Go straight along this road, then turn left at the traffic lights.' We walked past the bus stop and the bakery. Then I said: 'The castle is opposite the big church - you can already see it!' My cousin was impressed. She said: 'Wow, you sound like Google Maps!' Best compliment ever."

Kerem, 15, Turkey *Stress level: 7/10*

"I was in London with my family and we needed to get to the Natural History Museum. My dad asked a woman: 'Excuse me, how do I get to the museum?' She said: 'Go straight, cross the bridge, turn right, and it's next to the park.' Simple, right? But we turned right too early and ended up at a bus stop in the middle of nowhere. I checked the timetable and we took a bus. I asked the driver: 'Does this bus go to the museum?' He said yes. Three stops later, we were there!"

Amara, 13, South Africa *Stress level: 9/10*

"I had to get to my friend's house by myself for the first time. My mum said: 'Take the number 5 bus. Get off at the fourth stop. Then walk straight and her house is between the pharmacy and the flower shop.' Easy! But I didn't count the stops properly and I got off at the fifth stop. Everything looked different. I asked a man: 'Excuse me, where is Green Street?' He said: 'You're on Green Street - but the other end. Go straight for ten minutes.' I walked and walked. When I finally arrived, my friend laughed and said: 'You could have called me!'"

Noah, 16, UK *Stress level: 5/10*

"I was meeting friends at a new restaurant downtown. I went to the station and bought a single ticket. The man at the ticket office said: 'Your train leaves from platform 2.' I got on the train and checked my phone. Three stops later, I got off and asked a woman: 'Is it far from the station?' She said: 'Not at all. Turn right out of the station, go straight past the cinema, and it's on the left - opposite the park.' I found it in four minutes. Sometimes asking a real person is better than a map!"

05 — Vocabulary Cards

1. **go straight** (phrase)

To continue forward without turning left or right.

"Go straight for about two hundred metres."

2. **turn left / right** (phrase)

To change your direction to the left or right side.

"Turn right at the roundabout."

3. **opposite** (preposition)

On the other side of the street, directly facing.

"The park is opposite the train station."

4. **get off** (phrasal verb)

To leave a bus, train or tram at your stop.

"Don't forget to get off at Queen Street!"

5. **platform** (noun)

The raised area at a station where you wait for a train.

"The train to Manchester leaves from platform 7."

6. **timetable** (noun)

A printed or digital list showing departure and arrival times.

"I always check the timetable on my phone."

06 — Practice: Fill in the Blank

Choose the correct word or phrase for each situation.

1. Don't turn. Just _____ for two minutes.

a) turn left b) go straight c) cross

2. The bus leaves from the _____ on Park Street.

a) platform b) timetable c) bus stop

3. You want to know where the station is. You say: "_____"

a) Tell me the station! b) Excuse me, where is the station? c) I want the station.

4. The cafe is _____ the bank and the cinema.

a) opposite b) next to c) between

5. You need to _____ at the next stop.

a) get on b) get off c) get in

6. The library is _____ the park - on the other side.

a) between b) next to c) opposite

7. Check the _____ to see when the next train leaves.

a) ticket b) platform c) timetable

8. You need to _____ the bridge and then turn left.

a) go straight b) turn c) cross

07 — Speaking: Tourist & Local Role-Play

Work with your teacher or a partner. One person is a **tourist**, the other is a **local**. Use the polite phrases from this lesson. Then swap roles!

1. You're a tourist. Ask how to get to the train station. The local gives step-by-step directions.
2. You're at a bus stop. Ask the driver if the bus goes to the shopping centre, and how many stops.
3. You're lost. Ask someone where the nearest pharmacy is and if it's far.
4. You're at the station. Buy a return ticket and ask which platform.
5. A tourist asks YOU for directions to your school. Explain the route from the nearest bus stop.

Example Dialogue:

Tourist: Excuse me, how do I get to the library?

Local: Sure! Go straight along this road for about two minutes.

Tourist: OK. Then what?

Local: Turn left at the traffic lights. Walk past the supermarket.

Tourist: Past the supermarket. Got it. Is it far?

Local: Not at all. It's between the cafe and the bank.

Tourist: Thank you so much!

Local: No problem. You can't miss it!

08 — Writing Task

Write directions for a friend or describe a journey (70-100 words). Use the vocabulary and phrases from this lesson!

Checklist:

- at least 3 direction vocabulary words
- at least 2 polite phrases
- at least 1 transport word
- at least 1 landmark or place name

09 — Quiz

Test your understanding. Circle the correct answer.

1. What does 'go straight' mean?

- A) turn left
- B) continue forward without turning
- C) cross the road
- D) stop walking

2. You need help finding the station. You say:

- A) Where is station?
- B) Excuse me, how do I get to the station?
- C) I want station now.
- D) Station is where?

3. 'Get off' means:

- A) enter a bus or train
- B) buy a ticket
- C) leave a bus or train at your stop
- D) wait at the bus stop

4. The library is _____ the bank. (They are very close, on the same side.)

- A) opposite
- B) between
- C) next to
- D) across from

5. Where do you wait to catch a train?

- A) a bus stop
- B) a timetable
- C) a platform
- D) a roundabout

6. From the reading: How did Kerem finally get to the museum?

- A) He walked the whole way
- B) He took a taxi
- C) He took a bus
- D) His dad carried him

7. What is a 'return ticket'?

- A) a ticket you can return to the shop
- B) a ticket for one journey
- C) a ticket for going there and coming back
- D) a free ticket

8. From the reading: Why did Amara get lost?

- A) She took the wrong bus
- B) She got off at the wrong stop
- C) The bus broke down
- D) Her phone died

Answer Key

Practice (Fill in the Blank):

1. go straight
2. bus stop
3. Excuse me, where is the station?
4. between
5. get off
6. opposite
7. timetable
8. cross

Quiz:

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. C
8. B