Workshop 18: Excuse me, how do I get there? ➤

Asking the way, and understanding the answer

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

This workshop is about two things: **asking** for directions politely, and **understanding** the answer. The second one is harder, and it is the one we will practise most.

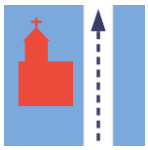
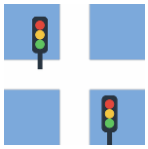
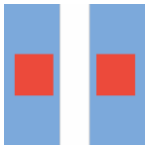
You will need the four recordings. Play them as many times as you want. Three times is normal, and nobody is watching.

Your plan for today ▸

- **Part 1** The words you need, with a picture for each one
- **Part 2** Six people, six places: follow the directions on the map
- **Part 3** How to ask, and what to say when you do not understand
- **Part 4** Listening: three people, one question
- **Part 5** Listening: find your teacher's house in St Kilda, Melbourne
- **Part 6** Put the conversation in order
- **Part 7** Your turn: give the directions
- **Part 8** The way to your house, for your partner to follow

① The words you need

Nine phrases. They cover almost every direction anyone will ever give you. The picture is there so you do not have to translate in your head: look at it, say the English.

turn left	gira a la izquierda	
turn right	gira a la derecha	
go straight on	sigue derecho	
go past the church	pasa la iglesia (sigue, no te pares)	
on the corner	en la esquina	
at the traffic lights	en el semáforo	
opposite the bank	frente al banco, al otro lado	
at the end of the street	al final de la calle	
a bridge	un puente	

▸ **AUDIO 18.1** Listen and repeat the nine phrases. Say them out loud.

⚠ **Two to be careful with** go **past** the church means you do NOT stop there: it is behind you afterwards. And **opposite** means on the other side of the street, facing it. It is not *next to*.

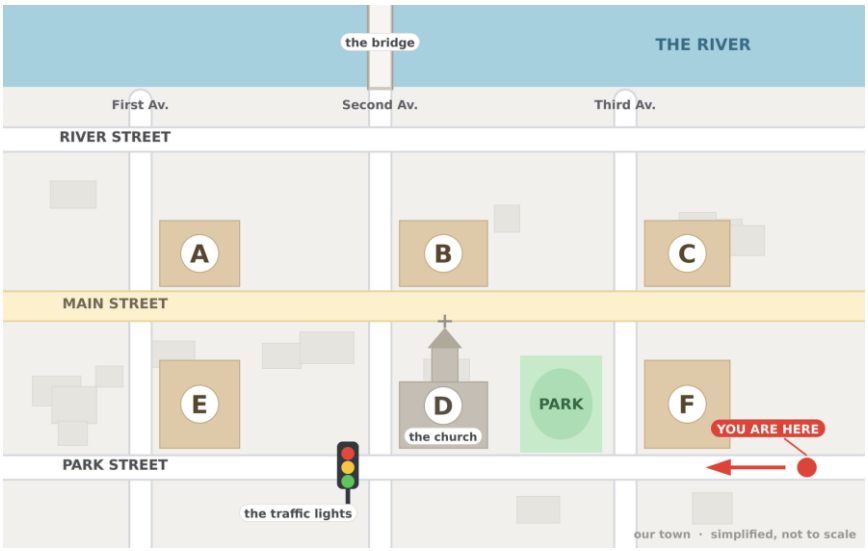
a. ✎ Write the phrase in English.

9 points

1. *gira a la derecha* = _____	**2.** *en la esquina* = _____
3. *sigue derecho* = _____	**4.** *un puente* = _____
5. *en el semáforo* = _____	**6.** *gira a la izquierda* = _____
7. *al final de la calle* = _____	**8.** *frente al parque* = _____
9. *pasa la iglesia* = _____	

② Six people, six places

This is our town. Six people are standing where you are, on the red dot at the end of Park Street, and each one asked somebody the way. Read what they were told, follow it on the map with your finger, and write the letter. **6 points.** *after Main Street means you have crossed it and it is now behind you.*



1 **Camila** *wants to buy stamps.*
"Go straight on. It is the first building on your right, on the corner of Third Avenue."
Where does Camila go? → _____

2 **Andrés** *wants to see the paintings.*
"Go straight on to the traffic lights and turn right. Go past the church. It is the next building on your right, on the corner of Main Street."
Where does Andrés go? → _____

3 **Lucía** *is ill and needs a doctor.*
"Go straight on. Turn right at Third Avenue. It is on your right, after Main Street."
Where does Lucía go? → _____

4 **Tomás** *needs bread and milk.*
"Go straight on, past the church and past the traffic lights. It is on your right, on the corner of First Avenue."
Where does Tomás go? → _____

5 **Sara** *wants to borrow a book.*
"Go straight on, past the church and the traffic lights. Turn right at First Avenue. It is on your right, after Main Street."
Where does Sara go? → _____

6 **Julián** *wants to walk to the other side of the river.*
"Turn right at the traffic lights. Then go straight on, to the end of the street."
Where does Julián go? → _____

③ How to ask

Three ways to ask, from shortest to most polite. All three are fine, and all three start with **Excuse me**.

Short	Excuse me, where's the museum?
A little more polite	Excuse me, is the museum near here?
The most polite	Excuse me, can you tell me the way to the museum, please?

When you do not understand ▸

This is the most useful part of the whole workshop. Nobody understands directions the first time, not even in Spanish. These four sentences buy you another try.

Sorry, could you say that again, please?
Could you speak more slowly, please?
Sorry, I don't understand.
Is it far?

▸ **AUDIO 18.2** Listen and repeat the three questions and the four rescue sentences.

a. ✎ Put the words in order to make the question.

5 points

1 me / excuse / the bank / where's → _____

2 near / is / here / the park → _____

3 you / can / me / tell / the way / to the station → _____

4 again / could / that / you / say → _____

5 far / is / it → _____

④ Listening: three people, one question

Marta is in our town, on the map in Part 2. She is looking for the **museum**, and she asks three people. Listen right through once without writing anything. Then listen again and answer.

▸ **AUDIO 18.3** Marta asks three people the way to the museum.

a. ✎ Answer the questions.

6 points

1 Which building is the museum? A, B, C, D, E or F? _____

2 How many people help her? _____

3 Why can the first person not help?

_____

4 Why can the second person not help?

_____

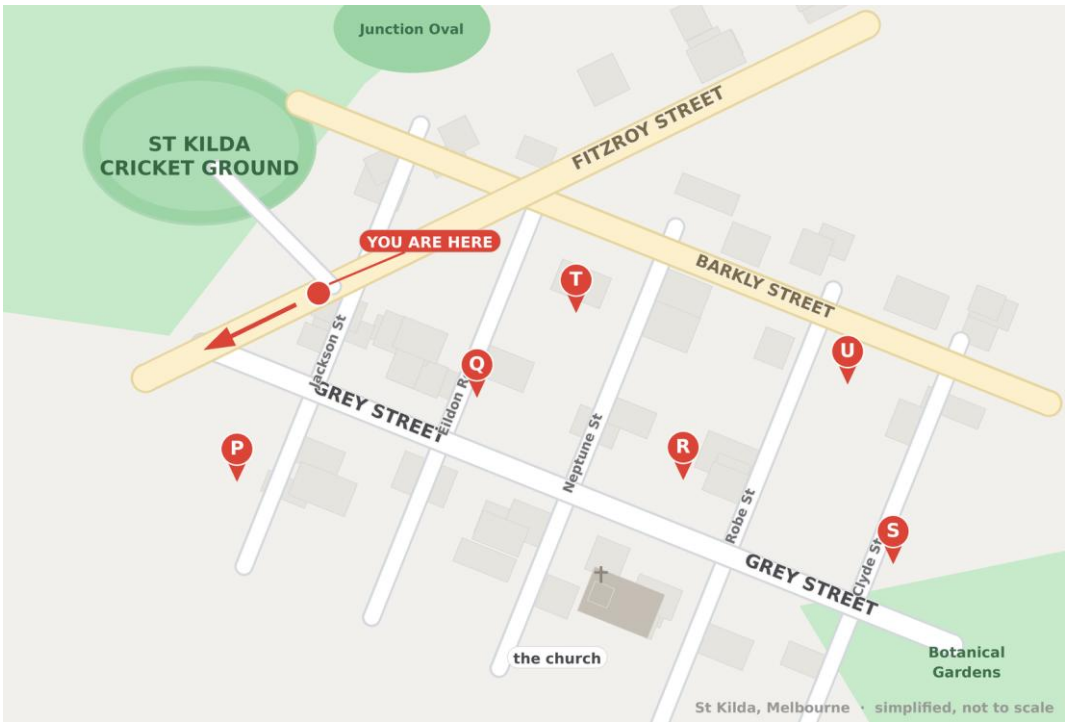
5 What does Marta say when she does not understand?

_____

6 Is the museum far? _____

⑤ Listening: where does Teacher Alejandro live?

A real place this time. This is **St Kilda**, in Melbourne, and it is where your teacher, **Teacher Alejandro**, lives. You are standing on the red dot, on Fitzroy Street, just outside the St Kilda Cricket Ground. Three people ask the way. Follow the directions on the map with your finger and write the letter.



▸ **AUDIO 18.4** Three sets of directions in St Kilda. Start at the red dot each time.

a. ✎ Where do they go? Write the letter.

3 points

1 Conversation 1: the supermarket → _____

2 Conversation 2: the chemist → _____

3 Conversation 3: 92 Grey Street → _____

b. ✎ Listen again and complete the directions.

6 points · six gaps in five sentences

1 Go along Fitzroy Street and turn _____ into Grey Street.

2 It's the first building on your _____, before Jackson Street.

3 It's on your _____, on the _____ of Eildon Road.

4 Go _____ Jackson Street, Eildon Road and Neptune Street.

5 Number 92 is _____ the church.

★ Why this matters

This is a real walk in a real suburb. Sacred Heart Church really does stand on Grey Street, and number 92 is across the road from it. If you ever come to Melbourne, this is how you would get from the cricket ground to my front door.

⑥ Put the conversation in order

These nine lines are one conversation, but they are mixed up. Number them **1 to 9**. Line 1 is done for you.

Tip: *Two people are talking, and they take turns: you, them, you, them. So the person who starts also finishes.*

8 points

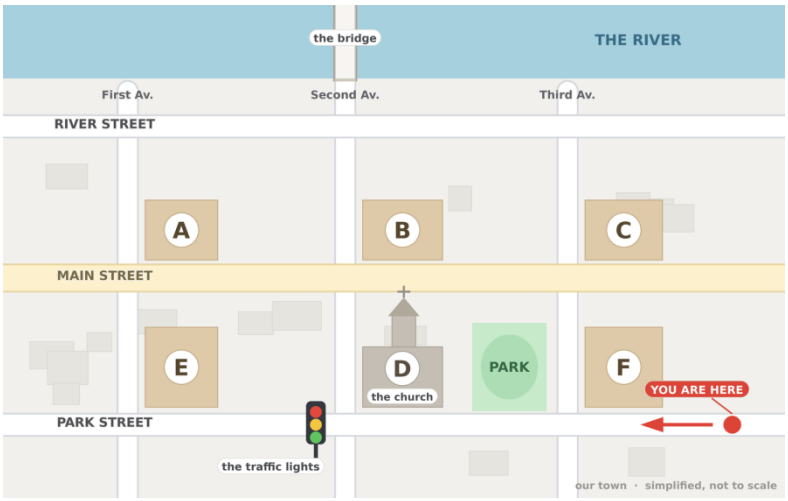
___	No, it's about ten minutes on foot.
___	One last question. Is it opposite the park?
1	Excuse me, can you tell me the way to the station, please?
___	Thank you very much!
___	No problem. Go straight on. Then turn left at the traffic lights.
___	Thanks. And is it far?
___	Yes, of course. Go straight on and turn left at the traffic lights.
___	No, it's next to the park, on the corner.
___	Sorry, could you say that again, please?

b. ▸ Now read it out loud twice: once as you, once as the other person.

Not marked. Reading a conversation out loud is the cheapest speaking practice there is, and it is the only way the rescue sentence in line 3 will come out of your mouth when you really need it.

⑦ Your turn: give the directions

Back to our town. Now you are the person who helps. Someone is standing at the red dot and asks you. Write the directions in full sentences. *Some of these places came up in Part 2. That is deliberate: reading directions and saying them yourself are two different skills, and the second one is much harder.*



a. ✎ Write the directions.

5 points. One point for each set of directions that would get the person there.

1. Excuse me, can you tell me the way to E, please?

---

2. Excuse me, where's the park?

---

3. Excuse me, is C near here?

---

4. Excuse me, how do I get to the bridge?

---

5. Excuse me, where's the church?

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⑧ The way to your house

Not marked, and the most useful page in the workshop. Your partner has to find your house. The only help they get is your map and your words.

Student	You draw the map for	You will get
Erika	Didier	Didier's map
Didier	Erika	Erika's map

1. **Draw a map** in the box. Start at a place your partner knows: the park, the church, the school. Put a dot there. Then put an **X** on your house. (Do not want to use your house? Use a shop or a café you like.)
2. **Write the directions** on the lines in part a. Use **five** or more of the nine phrases from Part 1.
3. **Take a photo of this page** and send it to your partner. Your partner follows your words with a finger. Do they arrive? If they do not, find the sentence with the problem. That is the sentence to learn.

Draw your map here, or stick a printed one in.

a. ✎ Now write the directions.

Like this: Start at the park. Go straight on. Turn left at the traffic lights. Go past the school. My house is on the corner, opposite the shop.