

Everyday language

Lecture

Asking Directions

- ◉ MARK: Excuse me. Could you tell me where the library is?
- ◉ NANCY: Yes, it's that way. You go three blocks to Washington Street, then turn right. It's on the corner, across from the bank.
- ◉ MARK: Thanks! I've only been in town a few days, so I really don't know my way around yet.
- ◉ NANCY: Oh, I know how you feel. We moved here a year ago, and I still don't know where everything is!



LANGUAGE NOTES

- ◉ Could you tell me ... is slightly more polite than “Can you tell me ...?”
- ◉ Could you tell me where the library is? Notice that “library” is stressed here because it is the word with the important information. This is an indirect question, so the subject (the library) comes before the verb (is). The word order is reversed in a direct question (Where is the library?).
- ◉ Yes, it's that way. Notice the stress on “that.” The speaker is pointing in a certain direction and wants to emphasize that direction.
- ◉ I know how you feel is a way of saying “I understand.” Notice the emphasis on “feel.” The speaker wants to show empathy and understanding.
- ◉ I still don't know where everything is! Notice the word order of where “everything is.” The subject (everything) comes before the verb (is). This word order is different from the direct question (Where is everything?).

THE BASICS

When you ask someone for directions, first say “Excuse me”, then ask for the information you want. The person might say how far the place is in either yards and miles, or metres and kilometres.

YOU MIGHT SAY...

Excuse me...

Where is...?

Which way is...?

What's the quickest way to...?

How far away is it?

Is it far from here?

I'm lost.

I'm looking for...

I'm going to...

Can I walk there?

YOU MIGHT HEAR...

It's over there.

It's in the other direction.

It's ... miles/minutes away.

Go straight ahead.

Turn left/right.

It's next to...

It's opposite...

It's near to...

Follow the signs for...

That's ... pounds, please.

VOCABULARY

traffic

rush hour

public transport

directions *pl*

to walk

to drive

to return

to cross

to turn

Which words are commonly used in everyday life?



Street lamp



Street signs



Traffic lights



bin



Zebra crossing



bench



house



park



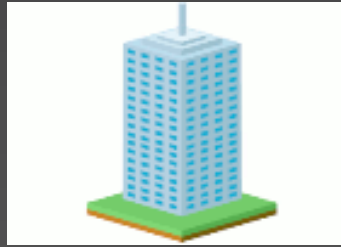
restaurant



shop



intersection



building



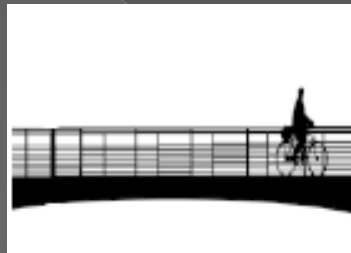
Bus stop



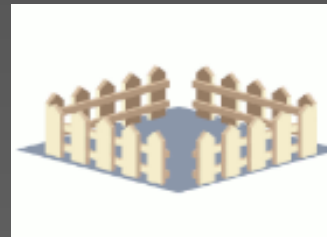
cafe



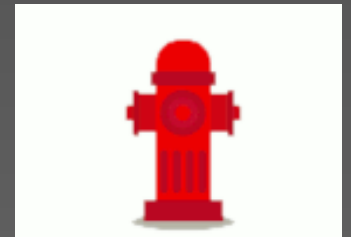
Car park



bridge



fence



Fire hydrants



ATM



fountain



garage



hospital



taxi meter



accessible parking space



taxi rank



parking space



pavement



pothole



petrol station



road



roadworks *pl*



speed camera



roundabout



single-track road



speed limit



toll



traffic cone



traffic jam



tunnel

A. Appetizers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. fruit cup/fruit cocktail | 4. chicken wings |
| 2. tomato juice | 5. nachos |
| 3. shrimp cocktail | 6. potato skins |

B. Salads

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7. tossed salad/
garden salad | 10. antipasto (plate) |
| 8. Greek salad | 11. Caesar salad |
| 9. spinach salad | 12. salad bar |

C. Main Courses/Entrees

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 13. meatloaf | 16. baked chicken |
| 14. roast beef/prime rib | 17. broiled fish |
| 15. veal cutlet | 18. spaghetti and
meatballs |

D. Side Dishes

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 19. a baked potato | 22. rice |
| 20. mashed potatoes | 23. noodles |
| 21. french fries | 24. mixed vegetables |

E. Desserts

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 25. chocolate cake | 28. jello |
| 26. apple pie | 29. pudding |
| 27. ice cream | 30. ice cream sundae |

The Restaurant

Social English

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.
This month: the restaurant. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- We'd like a table for two, please.
- I have a reservation under the name of Jones.
- Could you bring us the menu, please?
- Do you have a **set menu**?
- Could you bring us the salt/pepper/ketchup/vinegar, please?
- I'll have the soup as a **starter**.
- I'll have the steak for the **main course**.
- I'll have it **rare** / medium rare / medium / **well done**, please.
- Where's the toilet/bathroom/restroom (US English), please?
- Could I have the **bill**, please?

What you hear

- Do you have a reservation?
- Smoking, or non-smoking?
- Can I get you a drink while you're waiting?
- Are you ready to order yet?
- What would you like for a starter?
- What do you want for the main course?
- What would you like to drink with your meal?
- Would you like any wine with that?
- **Red** or white?
- What would you like to drink?
- How would you like your steak? Rare, medium or well-done?
- Would you like any dessert?
- Would you like any coffee?

What you say

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions. ☺

