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EA02. Directions with Direct and Indirect Questions

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Introduction

Even though you have just learned how to give directions, it is just as important to know how to ask for directions because you may not always have your GPS or map with you. [Listen to four conversations](#) of people asking for directions.

Listen to each conversation as many times as needed. In each conversation, people are asking for directions.

Write down three different questions that the people use to ask for directions below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What is the difference between the questions above? Do some questions seem more formal or polite?





Section 2: Direct and Indirect Questions

Part 1: There are two types of questions that we will focus on in this SDLA: direct and indirect questions.

- A. Direct questions are the basic questions that we usually use to ask friends, family, and people we know well. An example of a direct question is "Where is the bank?"
B. Indirect questions are a little more formal and polite, and we usually use them with people we don't know very well or in professional situations. Indirect questions start with introductory phrases such as "Could you tell me. . ." or "Do you know . . ." An example of an indirect question is "Could you tell me where the bank is?"
*Note: Usually indirect questions are used at the start of a conversation and then the rest of the questions are direct.

Part 2: The following conversations are the same as the ones you listened to in Section 1. You may listen to them again if necessary. Find the direct and indirect questions and write them in the appropriate boxes in the chart on the next page. The first one has been done as an example.

- 1. Speaker A: Excuse me. Do you know where the nearest post office is?
Speaker B: Hmm. Let me see. Oh the nearest one is on Sycamore. It's about 3 blocks away.
Speaker A: Thank you so much. And what's the fastest way to get there?
Speaker B: The quickest way is to turn left on Grand and then go straight. When you get to Valley street, turn right. The post office will be on your left.
Speaker A: Thank you! You've been so helpful!
2. Speaker A: Hi. Can you tell me where the closest bank is from here?
Speaker B: Sure. It's on Temple about a mile away.
Speaker A: Great, thanks! What bank is it?
Speaker B: I think it's a Wells Fargo.
3. Speaker A: Pardon me. Could you tell me where Trader Joe's is?
Speaker B: Yes. It's on the corner of Antonio Street and Empresa Road.
Speaker A: Where is that exactly?
Speaker B: It's right across the street from Target. You can't miss it.
4. Speaker A: Hello, ma'am? Do you know where a gas station is?
Speaker B: Sure. There is a Shell station on Azusa Avenue and Colima Road.
Speaker A: I'm actually looking for an ARCO. Do you know where I can find one?
Speaker B: There's one on Jefferson Street behind the McDonald's. If you pass Madison Boulevard, then you've gone too far.
Speaker A: Thank you! I really appreciate it.





Direct Questions

Indirect Questions

Do you know where the nearest post office is?

Section 3: Writing Direct and Indirect Questions

Indirect questions are especially different from direct questions because they follow regular sentence word order. This means that the subject comes before the verb. In addition, we do not use the helping verb “do/does” in indirect questions. Look at the examples below.

Direct Wh-Questions

Be verb: Wh-word + verb + subject?

Other verbs: Wh-word + helping verb + subject + main verb?

Where is *the bank*?

Where does *the bus* stop?

How can *I* get to the bank?

How do *we* get to the library?

Indirect Wh Questions

Introductory phrase + wh-word + subject + verb?

Could you tell me where *the bank* is?

Do you know where *the bus* stops?

Can you tell me how *I* can get to the bank?

Do you know how *we* get to the library?

Change the **direct questions** below to **indirect questions**.

1. Where is Mt. San Antonio College?

2. Where do I get a student ID card?

3. How do I buy a parking permit?

4. Where can I buy a book for my class?





English Self-Directed Learning Activities

Language Learning Center 77-1005, *Passport Rewards*

EA02. Directions with Direct and Indirect Questions

Change the **indirect questions** below to **direct questions**.

1. Do you know where building 66 is?

2. Could you tell me where building 4 is?

3. Can you tell me how I get to building 6?





4. Do you know how I can get to student parking lot F?





Section 4: What Did I Learn?

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET. 	I can do this WITH help. 	I can do this WITHOUT help. 	I can TEACH this to a classmate. 
I can listen for questions in conversations.				
I can identify direct and indirect questions in conversations.				
I can write direct and indirect questions.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).








Section 5: Practice with a Tutor!

Meet with a tutor. Give this paper to the tutor. The tutor will review your work and talk with you. To make sure you understand how to ask for and give directions, the tutor will give you a map and ask you to do the following:

- 1.) Ask indirect and direct questions about how to get to different locations on the map.
- 2.) Give directions in response to questions about where different locations are on the map.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

Congratulations! Keep going.

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

Work on this more.

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

