Giving Directions

Vocabulary

- **to hang a left or right**: to make a turn off of a road onto another
  
  “Hang a left up here by the Burger King.”

- **to take the first left or right**: to turn at the next street on the left or right
  
  “Go past the movie theater and take the first right onto Lynnwood street.”

- **to make a U turn**: to turn your car so that you are now driving on the same street, but in the opposite direction
  
  “Make a U turn up here. We are going the wrong way.”

- **landmark**: an object or a building that is very noticeable while driving
  
  “Are there any landmarks that I should look out for on the way to your house. I want to make sure that I’m going the right way.”

- **to pull into**: to turn off the road you are currently on and go into the parking lot of a business or establishment
  
  “We need to pull into the hotel parking lot over here so we can look at the map.”

- **to pull out**: to leave a parking spot to enter a road
  
  “Pull out of your driveway and head towards the park. I will meet you there.”

- **to head towards**: to go in the direction of a certain location
  
  “Head towards the gas station on Congress street and I will tell you what to do from there.”

- **intersection**: an area where two streets meet
  
  “When you get to the intersection of highway 90 and Beale street go north on highway 90.”

- **access road**: a road that leads to a main highway
  
  “Turn onto the access road over there on the right so we can get on the highway.”

- **one way road**: a road that only lets drivers go in one direction.
  
  “Don’t turn down that street. It is a one way road.”
Questions you may hear
☐ How do I get to Main Street?
☐ Where is the closest gas station?
☐ Can you tell me where the community centre is?
☐ I’m looking for Jane Street.
☐ Are you from around here?

If you know the way...
❖ Use basic English to offer directions. Short phrases are best. Speak slowly and use very careful pronunciation. Spell out a word if necessary.
❖ The easiest way is to...
❖ The quickest way is to...
❖ The best way is to...
❖ go + direction (right, left, down, up, through)
❖ take + road name
❖ turn + right/left
❖ stay on + road name for + distance or time

If you don’t know the way...
✔ Don’t guess! Don’t just shake your head and walk away. Use one of these phrases:
✔ I’m sorry, I’m not from here.
✔ I’m afraid I can’t help you.
✔ Sorry I don’t know my way around here.

Offer another solution
❖ You could ask the bus driver.
❖ Ask the front desk clerk.
❖ Follow me. I’ll show you the way.
❖ Do you want me to draw you a map?
1.- Look at these maps and write the correct order to go to the place.

Go straight on at the traffic light.  
Cross ...

Go past …  Go through  Cross the road  Turn second right
2.- Look at the map and answer the questions, using the preposition of place in brackets.

1.- Where is the library? (between)
   It’s ____________________________

2.- Where is the bowling alley? (behind)
    ____________________________

3.- Where is the hotel? (next to)
    ____________________________

4.- Where is the zoo? (opposite)
    ____________________________

3.- Look at the map from exercise 2 and complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

1. The hospital is ____________________________ the bookshop.
2. The school is ____________________________ the bus station.
3. The bar is ____________________________ the bank.
4. The bus station is ____________________________ the school and the art gallery.
5. The city hall is ____________________________ the library.

4.- Look at the two pictures and find differences. Write sentences using “There is / are” (affirmative or negative).

a) In picture A, __________________________________________________________
   In picture B, __________________________________________________________

b) __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

c) __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

d) __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
5.- Look at this map and write the directions. You are at “X”.

![Map Image]

a) A: Excuse me, can you tell me where the bowling alley is, please?
   B: Yes. ____________________________________________________________
   A: Thank you very much.
   B: ______________________

b) A: Excuse me, is there a park near here?
   B: Yes. ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   A: ______________________
   B: ______________________

6.- Now, have a look at this map and write a complete dialogue. You are at the “X”.

![Map Image]

a) (ask and give directions to go to the restaurant)
   A: ________________________________________________________________
   B: ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   A: ______________________
   B: ______________________

b) (ask and give directions to go to the cinema)
   A: ________________________________________________________________
   B: ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   A: ______________________
   B: ______________________