

I think we're lost! **LEARNING OUTCOME** learn how to ask for and give directions

Everyday life

1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where are the people and what are they doing?

What do you think the problem is?



Everyday vocabulary

2 Look at the words and phrases in the box. Put them in two categories: directions and road traffic words.

carry on straight • cross the road • crossroads
go past • main road • pavement • pedestrian
crossing • straight on • take the second turning on
the right • three blocks up • traffic lights • underpass

directions	road traffic words
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.....
.....
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3 Add any other words you know to the two categories in 2.

.....
.....

Dialogue

4 02 Listen to the dialogue. Where is the Big Ben Language School?

Sandra and Tom are staying in the UK. They are trying to find their English school.

Tom: I don't understand this map. I think we're lost!
We should ask someone.

Sandra: OK. Look, that woman looks friendly,
(1)

Tom: Er, excuse me. Could you help us please?
We're a bit lost.

Woman: (2)

Tom: Are we going the right way for the Big Ben
Language School?

Woman: I'm sorry. (3) Do you
know which street it's on?

Sandra: Yes, it's on London Avenue.

Woman: Oh, I know London Avenue. From here, you
need to carry on walking, stay on this side of
the pavement, er, go straight on until you reach
a busy main road. (4)

When you come out of the underpass, go right
and take the second turning on the left.

Tom: (5)

Woman: No, it's about a five-minute walk.

Tom: OK. Thank you very much.

Sandra: OK. This is London Avenue. Let's ask this man
where the school is. Excuse me, could you tell us
where the Big Ben Language School is, please?

Man: Sure. Go straight on. Cross the road at the
traffic lights, then carry on straight for about
four minutes.

Sandra: Is it next to anything?

Man: (6) You can't miss it. If
you reach the library you've gone too far.

Sandra: Thanks. That's very kind of you.

Man: You're welcome.

5 Read and complete the dialogue with the phrases (a–f). Then listen again and check.

a Of course.

b Here you'll need to take the underpass.

c Is it far?

d ... let's ask her.

e It's next to a massive supermarket.

f I've never heard of it.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: ASKING FOR AND GIVING DIRECTIONS

Look at the expressions from the dialogue. Which are used for asking for directions and which are used for giving directions? Write ASKING or GIVING next to each expression.

Who says each one: Sandra, Tom, the woman or the man?

Number the sentences 1–11 so that they are in the correct order.

- ☒ 1 Could you help us please? We're a bit lost.
- ☐ Excuse me, could you tell us where the Big Ben Language school is, please?
- ☐ Are we going the right way for the Big Ben Language School?
- ☐ Is it far?
- ☐ Is it next to anything?
- ☐ Do you know which street it's on?
- ☐ Thanks. That's very kind of you.
- ☐ Go straight on until you reach a busy main road.
- ☐ Take the second turning on the left.
- ☐ Cross the road at the traffic lights.
- ☐ It's next to the supermarket.

Over to you!

- 6 Work in pairs. You are in an English town. One of you is a student abroad, and the other is a member of the public. Follow the steps below and role-play a conversation. Then change roles. Use the expressions in the Everyday English Toolkit.

Student: Ask for directions to the library and the post office. Follow your partner's directions and then check that you have found the right place.

Member of the public: You are with the student at point X on the map. Choose a location for the library and post office on your map. Give directions how to get to the places that the student asks for.

Change roles: This time the student asks for directions to the supermarket and the school and you are both at point Y.

