TEACHER TOOLS: Asking for Directions in Spanish

Printable Class Activity With Maps

SpeakingLatino.com
Asking for Directions in Spanish

First Spanish Lessons

Here is a quick and easy activity you can use in class to teach your students how to ask for directions in Spanish. It includes vocabulary and maps that put your students in a situation where they need to form complete sentences with instructions on how to get from different points on the map. As a special bonus, there is general information about each city at the end.

HOW TO USE MAPS IN CLASS TO TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS IN SPANISH

1. Write and discuss the “Asking for Directions in Spanish” vocabulary words on page 3.

2. Use some of the examples on page 4 to explain how to ask and answer for directions in Spanish.

3. Hand out some of the maps to the students (pages 5-8). You can print your own maps directly from Google Maps by zooming in on an area. You can select a map of a city from Latin America or your local neighborhood. Be sure that when you print out the map, you have Google include important points of interest, for you to use in the discussions.

4. Ask a student for directions from Point A to Point B. For example: ¿Cómo llego del Restaurante A al Hotel B?. The student should be able to answer you aloud using the vocabulary words. Each map includes the vocabulary for their reference.
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Vocabulary and Phrases

Discuss and explain the following vocabulary and basic phrases in Spanish to ask for directions. Feel free to add more words and phrases you think your students need to know to complete a full sentence. For example: camine, detrás de, hasta que llegues a, cuando llegues a, etc. Adjust the list according to your students’ levels.

1. Mapa: map
2. Izquierda: left
3. Derecha: right
4. Derecho: straight
5. Cuadra: block (Some countries will also use the word “manzana”)
6. Calle: street
7. Avenida: Avenue
8. Doblar or Girar: to turn
9. Lado: side
10. Llegar: arrive
11. Seguir: Continue (In this case meaning, continue this way, keep going, etc)
12. ¿Dónde está _________ ?: Where is _________?
13. ¿Cómo llego a _________ ?: How do I get to _________?
14. ¿Me puedes mostrar en el mapa?: Can you show me on the map?
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Examples

Let’s look at some sample interactions that give you a feel of not only asking questions, but understanding the answers. (These are generic examples that are not part of the maps included)

Q: ¿Cómo llego al banco?
A: Camina **derecho** 2 **cuadras**, doblas a la **izquierda**, camina 3 **cuadras** más y el banco estará a la **derecha**.

Q: How do I get to the bank?
A: Walk straight for 2 blocks, turn left, walk 3 blocks more and the bank will be on the right.

Q: ¿Dónde está el zoológico?
A: Sigue **derecho** hasta que llegas al Calle Rios y **dobra** a la **derecha**.

Q: Where is the zoo?
A: Keep going straight until you get to Rios Street and turn right.

Q: ¿Dónde está la universidad?
A: **Dobra** a la **izquierda** en Avenida las Heras, camina 5 **cuadras** hasta que llegas a Avenida Ortiz. **Dobra** a la **derecha**, y camina 3 **cuadras** más.

Q: Where is the University?
A: Turn left on Las Heras Avenue, walk 5 blocks until you get to Ortiz Avenue. Turn right
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Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

¿Cómo llego desde {START} hasta {FINISH}?
How do I get from {START} to {FINISH}?

¿Cómo llego a {FINISH} desde {START}?
How do I get to {FINISH} from {START}?

VOCABULARY

izquierda: left
derecha: right
derecho: straight
cuadra: block
calle: street
venida: avenue
doblar / girar: to turn
lado: side
llegar: arrive
seguir: continue
Asking for Directions in Spanish

Santiago, Chile

¿CÓMO LLEGO DESDE {START} HASTA {FINISH}?  
How do I get from {START} to {FINISH}?

¿CÓMO LLEGO A {FINISH} DESDE {START}?
How do I get to {FINISH} from {START}?

VOCABULARY

izquierda: left
derecha: right
derecho: straight
cuadra: block
calle: street
avenida: avenue
doblar / girar: to turn
lado: side
llegar: arrive
seguir: continue
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Buenos Aires, Argentina

¿CÓMO LLEGO DESDE {START} HASTA {FINISH}?  
How do I get from {START} to {FINISH}?

¿CÓMO LLEGO A {FINISH} DESDE {START}?  
How do I get to {FINISH} from {START}?

VOCABULARY

izquierda: left

derecha: right

derecho: straight

cuadra: block

calle: street

avenida: avenue

doblar / girar: to turn

lado: side

llegar: arrive

seguir: continue
Asking for Directions in Spanish

Bogotá, Colombia

¿CÓMO LLEGO DESDE {START} HASTA {FINISH}? How do I get from {START} to {FINISH}?

¿CÓMO LLEGO A {FINISH} DESDE {START}? How do I get to {FINISH} from {START}?

VOCABULARY

izquierda: left
derecha: right
derecho: straight
cuadra: block
calle: street
avenida: avenue
doblar / girar: to turn
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General Information About the Cities Featured On the Maps

OLD SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Old San Juan (or Viejo San Juan in Spanish) is the oldest settlement within Puerto Rico and is the historic colonial section of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Old San Juan is located on a small and narrow island which lies in the north coast, about 35 miles (56 km) from the east end of Puerto Rico, and is united to the mainland of Puerto Rico by the three bridges. In 1508, Juan Ponce de León founded the original settlement, Caparra in the mainland. In 1509, the settlement was abandoned and moved to a site which was called at the time Puerto Rico. In 1521, the name San Juan was added, and the newer settlement was given its formal name of San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico, following the usual custom of christening the town with both its formal name and the name which Christopher Columbus had originally given the islands, honoring John the Baptist.

SANTIAGO, CHILE

Santiago also known as Santiago de Chile is the capital of Chile. Founded in 1541, Santiago has been the capital city since colonial times. The city has a downtown core of 19th century neoclassical architecture and winding side-streets, dotted by art deco, neo-gothic, and other styles. Santiago’s cityscape is shaped by several stand-alone hills and the fast-flowing Mapocho River, lined by parks such as Parque Forestal. Mountains of the Andes chain can be seen from most points in the city. The city outskirts are surrounded by vineyards, and Santiago is within a few hours of both the mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

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General Information About the Cities Featured On the Maps

**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

*Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires* is the capital and largest city of Argentina, and the second-largest metropolitan area in South America, after Greater São Paulo. It is located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, on the southeastern coast of the South American continent. The city of Buenos Aires was first established as *Ciudad de Nuestra Señora Santa María del Buen Ayre* after Our Lady of Bonaria (Patroness Saint of Sardinia) on 2 February 1536 by a Spanish expedition led by Pedro de Mendoza. Buenos Aires is a top tourist destination, and is known for its European-style architecture and rich cultural life, with the highest concentration of theatres in the world.

**BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA**

Bogotá, from 1991 to 2000 called *Santafé de Bogotá*, is the capital, and largest city, of Colombia. Bogotá is the most populous city in the country, with 7,363,782 inhabitants as of 2010. Bogotá and its metropolitan area, which includes municipalities such as Chía, Cota, Soacha, Cajicá and La Calera, had a population of around 8 million in 2010. Bogotá is located on the west of the Savannah of Bogotá (Sabana de Bogotá), 2640 metres (8661 ft) above sea level. With its many universities and libraries, Bogotá has in past been called “The Athens of South America”.

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