

Pragmatics: Responding to Directions

Students need to learn how to judge and respond to directions given by adults and peers. Some directions are appropriate and doable, some are too difficult, and some are inappropriate and even dangerous. To practice analyzing and responding to verbal directions, have the students respond "OK," "I can't," or "No way!" to the following:

1. Sharpen your pencil.
2. Sit up straight.
3. Run down the hall.
4. Put your elbow in your ear.
5. Touch the ceiling.
6. Smash your glass on the floor.
7. Make your bed before you eat breakfast.
8. Brush your teeth after you go to bed.
9. Drive the car down the street.
10. Ride your bike on the sidewalk.
11. Kick the student sitting next to you.
12. Sing "Happy Birthday."
13. Shake hands with your friend.
14. Call your friend a nasty name.
15. Pick up your desk and carry it to the gym.
16. Take a red crayon and write on the chalkboard.
17. Rip 3 pages from your library book.
18. Draw a picture of a butterfly.
19. Write your name on the wall.
20. Multiply 256×398 in your head.
21. Recite the Gettysburg Address.
22. Spell your name backwards.
23. Take a pencil out of your neighbor's desk.

24. Throw your bookbag out of the bus window.
25. Fly around the room.
26. Dive in a pool when you are all alone.
27. Smoke a cigarette with your friends.
28. Write your name with your toes.
29. Help your mother set the table.
30. Take out the garbage.
31. Take a pack of gum from a store and put it in your pocket.
32. Trip a student who is carrying a lunch tray.
33. Dribble a basketball 3 times, then shoot it through the hoop.
34. In the cafeteria, ask for a sandwich and milk, but only speak in French.
35. Go to bed at 9 pm.
36. Play kickball in the living room.
37. Do your homework right after school.
38. Put your hand through a wall.
39. Turn to page 54 in your science book.
40. Open the refrigerator using your teeth.
41. Help a stranger find his lost dog.
42. Light a match and throw it in the trashcan.
43. Take medicine by yourself.
44. Walk on your elbows.
45. Play hopscotch with your friends on the playground.
46. Go to your friend's house at night, but don't tell your parents you are going.
47. Take candy or presents from someone you don't know.
48. Play a card game with your friends.
49. Throw popcorn at the movies.
50. Take some money out of your mother's wallet.