



Remembering Directions



Listening to Directions

Teach students to:

- * Use active listening
- * Repeat to yourself
- * Draw a sketch on paper or take brief notes
- * Picture in your mind what you are supposed to do
- * Close your eyes. Sometimes that helps you to remember the directions



**Teach your students to follow directions.
This is a skill that needs to be taught!**

Get highlighters (or use thick yellow markers) for each student. ALWAYS have them highlight the clue words in the written directions.

Tell them:

- * to picture in their heads what they are to do
- * to say to themselves in their own words what they are to do
- * to write the directions in their own words



Begin a **Think Before You Do** campaign.

Give an assignment to be done in thin black marker. An art lesson is a good way to start. Say (for one idea) draw a city scene with a stop light, a tall building with windows, a pizza shop, and a car. Repeat several times. Have students plan the assignment in their head before beginning.



Tips

Tell students they get one paper. No second chance to do over or get another paper. They need to listen carefully to the directions and then **"Think Before You Do"** as there are NO second chances.

If mistakes are made, have them cross out each mistake or figure out a way to fix it. Keep the assignments in a file so progress can be seen.



When you give directions:

- * Use Verbs
- * Keep it sequential: 1-2-3
- * Keep it SHORT
- * Be clear

After you have given directions:

- * Ask 5-8 students to repeat the directions
- * Have students whisper the directions to their neighbor:
in front /behind /on the right /on the left
- * Have students write the directions and read aloud to the class / discuss accuracy

***Think! before you do anything**

- * Have a 5-minute start period when NO questions may be asked
 - * Then have a 2-minute period during which you MAY answer questions of value
 - * Everyone stops and listens during this time
 - * When a question is asked, you ask the class, " How many know the answer ? "
- If the majority of the class raise their hands indicating that they know (therefore the directions were already given), say to the inquiring student: "Maybe someone will be nice and tell you what you are to do."
- * After a few days students learn very quickly to listen to the directions when given!

