



Do This! Not That!

Instructors: Don't forget to make an Achievery account for each student!
[Make your account for the Achievery in English](#) or [Make your Account for the Achievery in Spanish.](#)



Objective: By the end of this lesson, your students should have some familiarity with common terminology related to giving and following basic commands and prepositions of place.

Grade Span: OSY

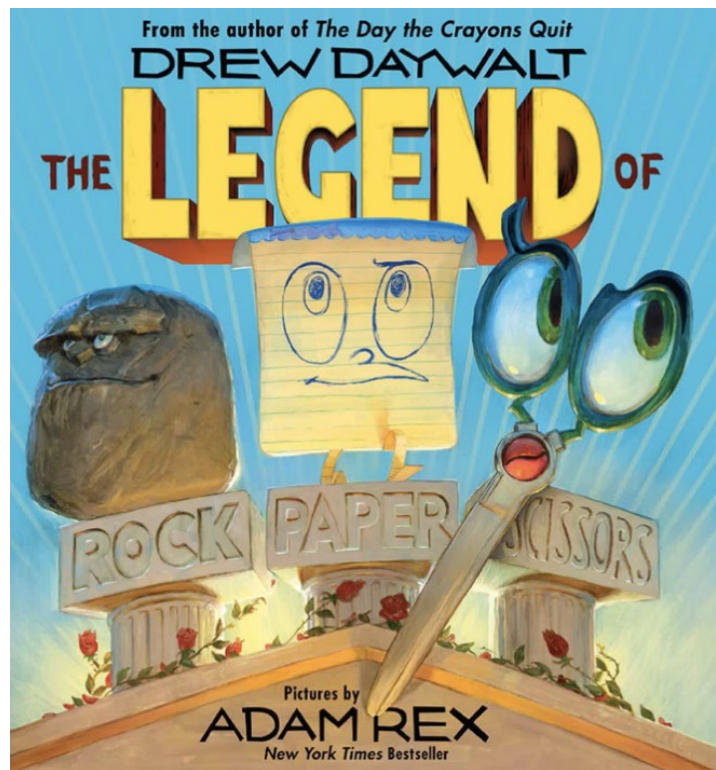
Subjects: ESL, Basic Commands

Why study this? Instructions and basic commands may seem like a trivial part of English, but they are extremely important. Directing and reacting correctly to others in a conversation is an essential skill. Giving and understanding directions helps with daily navigation, confidence, & independence.

Teacher Tip: Speaking of instructions, keep your language simple and your sentences short when giving instructions. Once you have given the instructions, give them again. And again! The first time they may be trying to interpret what you say so they might not comprehend everything they need to know. Repeating your instructions gives everyone time to process to make sure they are receiving all the information.

Lesson Intro: Watch this!

When people need to decide who goes first, there's a game played all around the world. Piedra, Papel, o Tijera.. Pierre, Feuille, Ciseaux..Rock Paper Scissors. But have you ever wondered how the game began? Begin the discussion on giving directions, reacting to others, and following basic commands by [watching a fun read-aloud](#) of *The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors*.



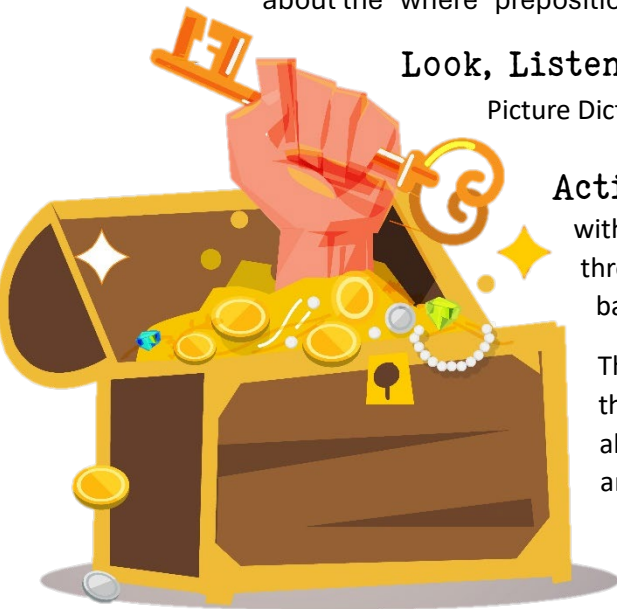
Lesson: Start with the Basic Commands from [English in Minutes Book One](#)

Extensions: Add depth to your lesson with:

Watch this! Prepositions are a special part of speech. Prepositions are like glue or bridges that help to link nouns (a person, place, or thing), to other words in a sentence. Prepositions usually tell when, where, or how in a sentence. In [this video](#) from TEDEd & Scratch Garden, students learn all about the "where" prepositions!



Look, Listen, & Learn Have students test their skills with the Interactive Picture Dictionary's [Prepositions of Motion](#) page.



Activity: Fetch! Teach about giving and following basic directions with the following activity. The goal of this game is for the 'robots' to go through an obstacle course, pick up a ball or other item, and bring it back.

The students must write (or speak) instructions that will tell their 'robot' partner how to do all that. To do that, give each student a pen and paper.

Tip: Write basic directions and phrases from the lesson on the board to create a word or phrase bank for students to use. Illustrations, even as simple as arrows pointing in a direction, may be helpful to include.

Students copy directions from the board to write their sets of instructions. Every time they write a program, they hand it to their robot and the robot executes it EXACTLY as written.

The fun part begins when each partner retrieves the ball. After the initial run [aka test program] students come up with additional instruction phrases to teach their robots. They can also include negatives.

Elements students also often quickly figure out:

- Instead of writing 'take a step forward' ten times, put a 10 in front of the phrase.
- Grouping of a set of moves ("move left leg forward, then move right leg forward and do this combo 10 times")



- “Run in a circle, then say “I’m dizzy!”, then call this the “Run Dizzy” program and do it 100 times.
- Write a set of instructions to get the partner moving a few steps, have their partner do it, then fix it and run it again, and then add a few more steps until they reach the goal.

Rock, Paper, Scissors! ESL Game

Rocks-Scissor-Paper is ideal for reviewing key material. Plus, it’s fun and the students love it! [Find game instructions here](#). *Scissors cut paper, paper covers rock, and rock blunts scissors.*



Rock Scissor Paper Race A.K.A. Janken Race.

Paper Rock Scissor Races, also known as Janken Races, are an engaging method to review vocabulary and language targets for learners with minimal teacher intervention. Using 7 to 15 vocabulary cards, students aged 5 to 9, grouped into small teams, race from one end to the other by associating each vocabulary card with the lesson’s target language as they progress. Encounters with opposing team members on a card lead to Rock Paper Scissor battles, deciding who continues.

A point is awarded when a player reaches the opposing team's starting point, with the game continuing until a team attains 5 points. This playful approach keeps both teaching and learning fresh, veering away from the monotony of traditional flashcard methods. Find [full instructions here](#).

Keep it going! Expand on this lesson with additional resources & Achievery lessons like:

[All The Things You Say](#) (Gr 6-8): Students will improve their personal communication skills by learning from a mistake made by characters from the award-winning comic, The UnCommons.

[Shedding the Noise](#) (Gr 9-12): Every day, we hear advice from family, friends, society...everyone! But is this advice helpful? And more importantly, is it true to you? You might be dealing...with noise. Once you recognize what's helpful advice and what's just noise, you'll be able to listen to your own voice—and find your way forward. In this lesson, you'll identify the negative noise you're hearing, and then destroy it!

[Listen and Be Heard](#) (Gr 6-8): Students will learn the importance of communicating their needs and emotions in different circumstances alongside characters from the award-winning comic, The UnCommons.

[Be You](#) (Gr 6-8): Learn how to keep your self-confidence and self-image intact with excerpts from the award-winning comic, The UnCommons.

[Prepositions of Place Memory Game](#): In this interactive video, students learn and reinforce their understanding of prepositions like "on," "under," "behind," "in front of," and more, all while having a blast playing a memory game.

