

Intermediate Short Stories – “Driving Directions”

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version

Hmm, I am thinking about how to get to the mall from my house. I will write a list of directions on a piece of paper to help me. I will be able to follow the directions when I drive to the mall.

First, I need to turn left out of my driveway. Then, I need to drive straight until I arrive at a stop sign.

Second, I need to turn right at the stop sign onto East Becker St. I need to stay on East Becker St. for three miles. When I see John’s restaurant, I need to turn left onto Highway 54.

Third, I need to stay on Highway 54 for eight miles. Then, I need to get off of the highway at Exit 92. The mall will be on the right.

Okay, I hope these directions will help me find the mall!



Advanced Version

Hmm, I am *wondering* how to get to the mall from my house. I will write a list of directions on a piece of paper to help me. I will be able to follow the directions when I drive to the mall.

First, I need to turn left out of my driveway. Then, I need to drive straight until I arrive at a stop sign.

Second, I need to turn right at the stop sign onto East Becker St. I need to stay on East Becker St. for three miles. When I see John’s restaurant, I need to turn left onto Highway 54.

Third, I need to stay on Highway 54 for eight miles. Then, I need to get off of the highway at Exit 92. The mall will be on the right.

Okay, I hope these directions will help me find my *destination*!

Questions:

1. Why do I need directions?
2. For how many miles do I need to drive on East Becker Street?
3. What highway do I need to take?
4. What exit do I need to take to get off of the highway?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does “*wondering*” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 1*)
2. What does “*destination*” mean? (*paragraph 5, sentence 1*)