

# Following Directions

## Social Emotional Learning

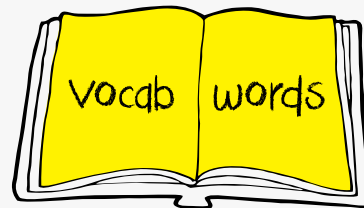
**Project and Purpose:** Students will become experts in why it is important to follow directions.

### Essential Question:

Why is it important to follow directions?



- Example of a newspaper advice column such as the Dear Abby section
- A simple costume item (such as a hat or glasses or a scarf) to become a Directions Crew Expert
- **If You Follow/If You Don't Follow Directions** worksheet  
(**Note:** One version for non-writers, one version for writers)
- Simple costume pieces from which students may select (optional)
- Dear Directions Crew Letters – cut apart



follow

directions

**Room Set up:** Chairs, tables and desks pushed back to create an open space to move and interact.

# Introduction

1. Show the class the newspaper and discuss how we not only get news about current events, we can also go to the advice section. People send their questions to the advice writer, and their questions and answers are printed in the paper. Discuss the different kinds of advice columns that are found in newspapers: how to do things, how to have better friendships, finding the best products, etc.
2. Talk about the advice writer as an expert who has a lot of experience in that area.
3. Read an appropriate example.

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## Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Tell students that they are going to become live advice columnists about an important subject: following directions.
2. Explain that you have letters from students that want to know why they should follow directions for different tasks.
3. Tell students you will show how this will happen. You will put on your costume to become an expert member of the Directions Crew. Turn around, put on your costume piece, and turn back in-role.
4. As the Directions Crew expert, select one of the letters, read it aloud, and then do a think aloud to create your response.
  - a. Think/talk about why the directions are there.
  - b. Think/talk about what would happen if the directions were not followed.
  - c. Think/talk about how you will respond to the writer.
5. Demonstrate how to use the **If You Follow/If You Don't Follow Directions** worksheet to write or draw your expert response.

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## Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Turn around, remove your costume, and debrief the experience with the students.
2. Ask students to help you with another example, and then become the Directions Crew Expert by turning around and putting on your costume.
3. Ask students to provide a variety of ideas for why it is important for the person who wrote in with the problem to follow the directions. Encourage them to think about safety, organization, fun, fairness and the possible consequences of following or not following directions.
4. Ask the students for ideas for the **If You Follow/If You Don't Follow Directions** worksheet.

## Independent Practice (You do)

1. Give students the opportunity to become experts and give advice to letter writers. Offer them different costume choices. **Note:** depending on developmental abilities, either bring up one expert at a time, or place them with partners to create responses for the letters.
2. Give them time to develop their responses and fill out the appropriate **If You Follow/If You Don't Follow Directions** worksheet for their advice column.
3. If you have students work in pairs, ask volunteers to share their expert advice with the large group when you gather back together.

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## Conclusion/Reflection

1. Have students return to being themselves and collect the costumes.
2. **Discuss:**
  - a. Why is it important to follow directions?
  - b. Why is following directions difficult sometimes?
  - c. How can we help each other follow directions in the classroom?

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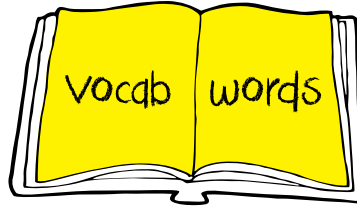
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## Vocabulary Definitions

### **follow (v)**

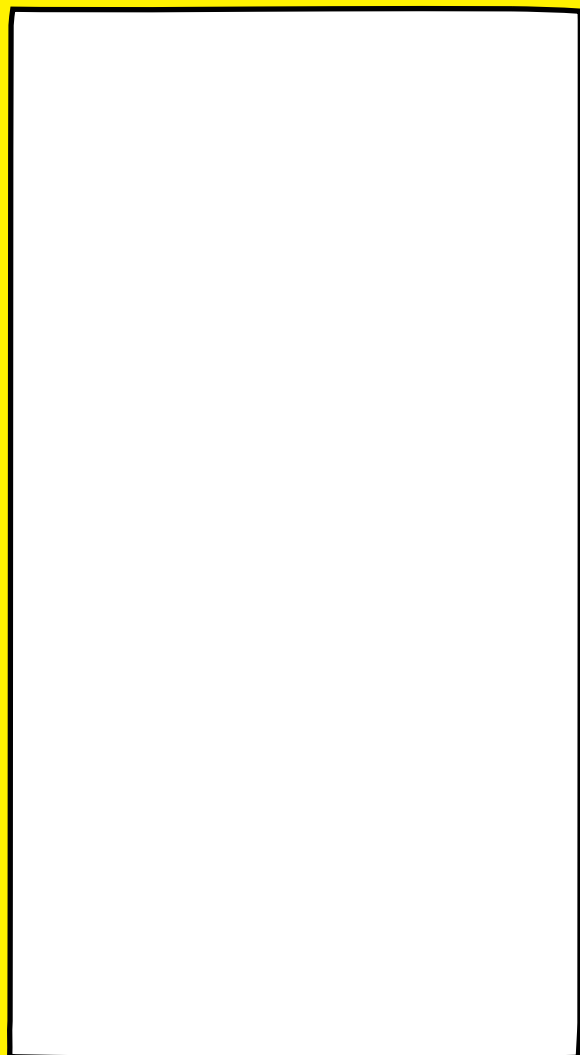
- Definition: to be guided by; obey.
- Context: We played follow the leader today in school.

### **direction(s) (n)**

- Definition: guidance of action or conduct; an instruction, indication, or order given with authority.
- Context: Henry followed the directions and built the model plane.

# If You Follow/If You Don't Follow Directions...

**Directions:** Draw a picture of can happen if you follow directions in the first box. Draw a picture of what can happen if you don't follow directions in the second box. Write about your pictures.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# If You Follow/If You Don't Follow Directions...

**Directions:** In the left box, write about what might happen if the person who wrote to you follows directions. In the right box, write about what might happen if the person does not follow directions. Use this information to write an advice column response on the back.

**If you follow directions:**

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**If you don't follow directions:**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Dear Directions Crew

Dear Directions Crew,

Hello! I am traveling to my friend's house and he gave me the address, directions, and a map. But I think I can find it without the directions. After all, it's only 200 miles. What could go wrong?

Your faraway friend,  
Trudy Traveler

Dear Directions Crew,

I love to bake cookies. I never follow the recipe directions. I like to make it up as I go. Funny thing is, no one ever wants to eat my cookies. They will take a little nibble and spit it out. Oh well! What's the big deal? I just don't like following the directions.

Sweetly,  
Bert Baker

Dear Directions Crew,

My dad gave me a build-your-own rocket kit. It has directions, but I can't stand people telling me what to do! I'm just going to toss the directions out the window. What do you think?

Quickly,  
Peggy Pilot

## Dear Directions Crew

Dear Directions Crew,

Our teacher is always telling us to walk on the right side of the hallway and keep our hands to ourselves. I like to practice my cheerleading moves, so I need lots of space. Why can't we use the whole hallway? And why can't I practice my jumps and cheers when I'm in line?

Loudly,  
Tracy Tumbler

Dear Directions Crew,

Every time we write a story, our teacher tells us to follow her directions. We have to write our name on the upper left side, write the date on the right side, and write neatly. She should know the paper is mine because I write such good stories! And I'm creative! Why do I need to follow her directions about where to write my name and the date?

Wordily,  
Frank Fiction

Dear Directions Crew,

In science we are going to make slime. I'm really excited about it! Our teacher tells us we need to follow each step of the directions slowly, but I just can't wait to mush my hands in the slime! Why do I need to follow the directions?

Your gooey friend,  
Gary Gak

## Dear Directions Crew

Dear Directions Crew,

The principal wants us to hold onto the railing when we go up and down the stairs. Why can't we slide down the railing? Why do we have to hold on when going up? Why does the principal think these directions are important?

Taking steps,  
Bunny Bannister

Dear Directions Crew,

We are painting in art class. The teacher gave us instructions about cleaning our brushes before putting them in a new color paint, but I like to mix the colors up. Then the water looks all cloudy. So what if other kids need to use the paints later? Why do I need to follow the teacher's directions when I just want to make a mish mosh mixture?

Coloring outside the lines,  
Arturo Artist

Dear Directions Crew,

When we play kickball at recess, the teacher always reminds us to follow the rules of the playground. Why? It's our free time! Why do we need to follow more directions?

Running around,  
Olga Outdoors