



Finding the Way



A **how-to paragraph** gives directions for doing or making something. It usually includes a topic sentence, the necessary materials, and step-by-step directions. A writer often uses time order words and phrases such as first, next, then, after that, and finally to help indicate the sequence. A how-to paragraph can also give directions for getting from one place to another. Here is a paragraph in which the directions are not very clear.



Do you turn left or right at the light? How many blocks are "a few" blocks? Which street?

Getting from school to my house is a snap. Just walk a few blocks down the street toward town. Turn at the traffic light. Go a couple more blocks. My house is on the corner. If you go past the intersection, you've gone too far.

Which intersection is too far? How many blocks are "a couple more" blocks? Which corner?

How would you give directions to get from one place to another in your community, such as from your home to the mall, from your school to a certain store, or from the park to the library? To get started, close your eyes and picture the route as if you were actually walking. Sketch the route in the box below. Then write a how-to paragraph with clear and specific directions. Include the names of streets and buildings, direction words such as left, right, north, south, east, and west, and time-order words.

From _____ to _____
