

Mountain Madness: Episode 9

Directions - The Basics

by International Mountain Connection

Hi! I'm Michelle Onofrey with International Mountain Connection. Welcome to Mountain Madness!

In this video, I'm going to talk about basic directions.

Directions aren't just important for hiking, but they're also important when you're skiing to stay on the right ski run so you can find your friends, when you're canyoning to make sure you don't jump on a rock, or when you're rock climbing to make sure you can find the next hold.

So today I'm going to talk about some very basic directions and at the end of the video there's going to be a quiz. Are you ready? Okay let's get started!

The first two words are probably the most important: right and left. Do you know the difference? Is it something that comes automatically or do you have to think about it a little bit?

Well I'm going to give you a trick so you can remember the difference between right and left, but first I need to turn around so wait just one second.

Okay so this is my right hand. So if you are supposed to turn right or go right you will go in this direction. And this obviously is my left hand but there's something special about our left hand. If you go like this, what do you see? It's an "L" for left.

So if you can't remember right and left, all you have to do is put your hands out like this and you'll see which hand makes an "L". An "L" for left.

Alright, if you're not going right or left then that means you're going forward and you're going straight. And if you keep going in the same direction and you continue to go straight, then someone might say continue going straight or keep going straight.

When we say that you're going to go straight, it doesn't mean the path is in a straight line. It means you're staying on the main path because maybe there are little paths on the side and you don't take those you continue on the main path. You continue to go straight.

Sometimes you're on a main path and you don't need to turn right or left but you're going to veer right or you're going to veer left. So what does it mean to veer? If you are on the main path and there's another path that goes a little bit to the right or a little bit to the left, that means you are going to veer. You veer to the right. You veer to the left. You're not turning at a 90 degree angle.

It's a very gentle turn . So if there's a gentle turn, we say you're going to veer. You veer to the right or you veer to the left.

Sometimes we're on a path and the path becomes more and more narrow and we realize that this isn't the right path. Or maybe we are on the right path and it starts to go down and it's icy and we don't have the right equipment and we decide this is not a good path to take right now. Or sometimes we realize we're not going in the right direction so what do we need to do?

We need to turn around or make a U-turn. And when we do that, we go back in the direction where we came from. So if someone says turn around, you're going to make a 180 [degree] turn and go in the direction that you came from.

So that's some basic vocabulary for directions. Before we take the quiz, let's review.

If we talk about right, this is the right side and the left side. This is to turn right or turn left. If you're going forward we are going straight or we say we're going to continue going straight or keep going straight. Veer left... Veer right. If we realize we're going in the wrong direction we can turn around and go back in the direction that we came from.

So with the quiz I'm going to say a word and you are going to indicate the correct direction. And then a symbol will appear on your screen to show you the correct direction. Are you ready? Okay here we go!

Turn left. Veer right. Turn around. Veer left. Go straight. Turn right.

So how did you do? Did you answer correctly every time?

Giving and receiving directions is really important and sometimes difficult in a second language so it's important to have some basic vocabulary.

Soon there will be another video about directions to give you even more vocabulary.

If you would like to know when the next International Mountain Connection video is released, all you have to do is click on the subscribe button and the bell.

And remember, why choose International Mountain Connection for your English training?

Because Brian isn't in the kitchen. He's in the mountains!

And I'll see you soon. Bye!