**Week 5: Common Phrases for Directions & Future Plans**

*Directions*

### **Asking for Directions**

* How can I get to …?
* Where is the …?
* How far is the … from the …?
* Is there a … around here?
* Could you tell me how to get to …?
* How do I find …?
* Pardon me, I’m lost. how do I get to …?
* Which is the best way to …?
* Could you direct me to …?
* Which way do I go to get to …?
* What’s the best way to …?
* Excuse me, do you know where the … is?
* Is this the right way for …?

### **Giving Directions**

* Go straight ahead.
* Turn back./Go back.
* Turn left/right.
* Go along …
* Cross …
* Take the first/second road on the left/right.
* It’s on the left/right.
* Go past.
* The easiest way is to …
* The best way is to …
* It’s on the corner
* It’s in the middle of the block.

### **Describing a Process**

* First
* Then
* And then
* After that
* Once you have done that then…
* After
* Before
* First, Second Third…
* Next
* Later
* Finally
* Last
* In the end

From [ManWrites](https://manwrites.com/how-to-describe-a-process-in-english/) and [EslBuzz](https://www.eslbuzz.com/how-to-ask-for-give-directions-in-english/)

*Future Plans*

* It’ll happen any day now.
* It’s right around the corner.
* …in the near future.
* It will/won’t happen in our lifetime.  
  (= in the next 40-50 years)
* It’s a sign/taste of things to come.  
  (= it indicates how things will be in the future)
* I’m counting down the days until…  
  (= I’m excited about the future event, I can’t wait for it to happen)
* Sooner or later… / It’s bound to happen eventually.  
  (= it will definitely happen sometime in the future)
* I’ll get around to it.  
  (= I’ll do it sometime in the future, but I don’t know exactly when)
* I’ll do it right away. / I’ll get right on it.  
  (= I’ll do it immediately)
* Time will tell.  
  (in the future, we will know if something is true/false or good/bad)

### ***Any minute now***

*If something is going to happen* ***any minute now****, it is due to happen imminently, although the exact time is unknown. We can also say* ***any second/hour/day now****, depending on the timeframe.*

### ***In the near future***

***In the near future*** *means some time soon. It is not as imminent as any minute now but will happen quite soon. We might also say before too long. “I hope to see our profit margin increase in the near future.”*

### ***No time to lose***

*If you have* ***no time to lose****, you are very short on time and must take action immediately. “We have no time to lose if we want to arrive at the theatre before the show starts.”*

### ***Have time on your side***

*When you* ***have time on your side*** *or when* ***time is on your side****, you have more than enough time to do what is required. “The client has asked for a detailed sales analysis. Fortunately, time is on our side as they don’t need it until next month.”*

### ***Just around the corner***

*Something that is* ***just around the corner*** *is just about to happen. “Follow these simple rules and success will be just around the corner.”*

### ***Days are numbered***

*If your* ***days are numbered*** *it means you don’t have long left to live. “When the doctor said my grandfather’s days were numbered, I went to visit him immediately.”*

### ***Only time will tell***

***Only time will tell*** *is said when the only way to discover the answer or truth about something is to wait for time to pass. You will find out some time in the future. “Only time will tell whether we made the right decision.”*

### ***Come what may***

*We use the expression* ***come what may*** *to show commitment to a person or course of action, no matter what may arise in the future. “Come what may, I will see this plan through to the end.”*

### ***To the end of time***

***To/until the end of time*** *is another way of saying forever, often used poetically. “He told her he would love her to the end of time.”*

### ***For the time being***

***For the time being*** *means for the moment or at this time. “We’d like to live by the sea one day, but we’re going to stay in the city for the time being.”*

### ***Save for a rainy day***

*The idiom* ***save for a rainy day*** *means to save money for some unknown or unexpected event in the future.“I make an effort to save for a rainy day by putting aside a little each month.”*

### ***A sign of things to come***

*If you say that something is* ***a sign of things to come****, it means that it is an indication of what the future will be like, or a sample of something that will happen in the future. “All these floods we’ve been having are just a sign of things to come.”*

### ***Future looks bright***

*We say that someone’s* ***future looks bright*** *if we think they have a promising future ahead of them. “Her future looks bright after she got such good grades.”*

### ***Chance would be a fine thing***

***Chance would be a fine thing*** *is said when someone would like a particular thing to happen, but it is very unlikely. “Me? Meet the man of my dreams on holiday? Chance would be a fine thing!”*

### ***Get ahead of yourself***

*If you* ***get ahead of yourself****, you act or plan for something prematurely, without planning properly or following the correct steps. Lisa: “I’d better go shopping for some new clothes for this job.” Annie: “I think you’re getting a bit ahead of yourself; you haven’t even had an interview yet!”*

### ***Like there’s no tomorrow***

*When you do something enthusiastically or energetically as if it’s your last chance to do it, we say you’re doing it* ***like there’s no tomorrow****. “Sally has been baking cakes like there’s no tomorrow. I wonder what the occasion is?”*

### ***Take a rain check***

*When you* ***take a rain check****, you ask or agree to do something at a later (usually unspecified) time. “Thanks for the invitation to lunch, but I’ll have to take a rain check.”*

* ***Come rain or shine*** *is another rain-related idiom to talk about future plans.*
* ***Burn your bridges***

*To* ***burn your bridges*** *means to act in a way that irreversibly damages a relationship with a person or organisation. “You’ll be burning your bridges if you send that email to the CEO; the company will never consider hiring you again or giving you a good reference.”*

### ***Tomorrow’s another day***

***Tomorrow’s another day*** *is something said to encourage someone by reminding them that there will be other opportunities in the future.* “I know the meeting didn’t go as you’d hoped but don’t worry; tomorrow’s another day.”

From [EspressoEnglish](https://www.espressoenglish.net/10-english-phrases-for-talking-about-the-future-2/) and [Improving Your English](https://improving-your-english.com/vocabulary/idioms/future-idioms/)