

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

La parada equivocada

A practical A1 story about taking the bus, asking for directions, and finding your way in a new city.

READ

ASK

ARRIVE

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ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Sofía is taking the bus to a new job interview. Read to discover what she does when she gets off at the wrong stop.

Before you begin

What English questions can you use when you are lost? Write two ideas.

Meet Sofía

SOFÍA

Sofía is 23 and lives in a busy city. Today she has an interview at a bakery across town. She knows the address, but she has never visited that neighborhood.

Reading goal

Notice the words and questions Sofía uses to travel and ask for directions.

THE STORY · PART 1

Bus number sixteen

Sofía leaves home early on Tuesday morning. Her interview is at ten o'clock.

She walks to the **bus stop** near her apartment.

A green bus arrives. The number on the front is sixteen.

'Does this bus go downtown?' she asks the **driver**.

'Yes,' he says. 'Where do you need to go?'

'I need Pine Street. The bakery is near the public library.'

The driver nods. 'Get off after the hospital.'

Sofía pays the **fare** and finds a seat by the window.

She watches the streets carefully. First, the bus passes a school. Then it crosses a bridge.

Her phone shows the bakery's **address**: 48 Pine Street.

A few minutes later, Sofía sees a large white building. She thinks it is the hospital.

She presses the red **button**. The bus stops, and she gets off.

But the sign on the building says: CITY MUSEUM.

'Oh no,' Sofía whispers. 'This is the wrong stop.'

THE STORY · PART 2

A question at the corner

Sofía looks around. She does not know the **neighborhood**.

The bus is already moving away. Her interview begins in thirty minutes.

She opens a map on her phone, but the battery is almost empty.

At the **corner**, a man is walking a small brown dog.

Sofía takes a breath and asks, 'Excuse me, can you help me?'

'Of course,' the man says.

'How do I get to Pine Street?'

He points ahead. 'Go **straight** for two blocks. Then turn **left** at the bank.'

'Is it far?' Sofía asks.

'No. It is about a ten-minute walk. The library is on your right. The bakery is **across from** it.'

Sofía repeats the directions: 'Straight for two blocks, left at the bank, and the bakery is across from the library.'

'Exactly,' the man says.

'Thank you very much!'

Sofía starts walking quickly. At the first street, she checks the signs. At the second street, she sees the bank.

THE STORY · PART 3

Right on time

Sofía turns left at the bank. Soon, she sees the public library.

Across the street is a small bakery with a yellow door.

She checks the number: 48. This is the correct **place**.

Sofía looks both ways and uses the **crosswalk**.

She arrives at 9:55, five minutes before the interview.

Inside, a woman in a white apron greets her.

‘Good morning. Are you Sofía?’

‘Yes, I am. I am here for the interview.’

‘Perfect. You are right on **time**,’ the woman says.

After the interview, Sofía buys a small roll. She sits near the window and writes the bus directions in a notebook.

On the way home, she waits at the correct stop. When bus sixteen arrives, she speaks to the driver again.

‘Please tell me when we are near Oak Street,’ she says.

‘No problem,’ the driver answers.

Sofía smiles. A wrong stop made her nervous, but she asked for help and found her way.

Now she knows something important: when you are lost, a clear question can be your best map.

Ask, listen, and keep going.

Words for getting around

Find each bold word in the story. Read the full sentence, then check the Spanish meaning.

bus stop	parada de autobús
driver	conductor/a
fare	tarifa / pasaje
address	dirección
button	botón
neighborhood	barrio
corner	esquina
straight	derecho / recto
left	izquierda
across from	enfrente de
place	lugar
crosswalk	cruce peatonal
time	hora / tiempo

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose the best answer

1. Where is Sofía going?

a) A bakery b) A museum c) A hospital

2. Which bus does she take?

a) 6 b) 16 c) 60

3. Where does she get off by mistake?

a) The bank b) The library c) The museum

4. Who gives Sofía directions?

a) A man with a dog b) The baker c) A police officer

5. What is across from the library?

a) The bank b) The bakery c) The hospital

B. True or false

1. Sofía's interview is at ten o'clock. **TRUE / FALSE**

2. Her phone has a full battery. **TRUE / FALSE**

3. She walks straight for two blocks. **TRUE / FALSE**

4. She arrives after the interview begins. **TRUE / FALSE**

5. She asks the driver for help on the way home. **TRUE / FALSE**

C. Direction words

Complete with: **straight** • **left** • **across from** • **corner**

1. Go _____ for two blocks.

2. Turn _____ at the bank.

3. The bakery is _____ the library.

4. A man is standing at the _____.

COMPREHENSION

Think and use English

D. Answer in a complete sentence

1. Why does Sofía get off at the wrong stop?

2. Why can she not use her phone for long?

3. What directions does the man give her?

4. How early does she arrive at the bakery?

5. What can you say when you need directions?

E. Give simple directions

Write four steps from your home to a nearby place. Use go, turn, left, right, or across from.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. Multiple choice

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. b

B. True or false

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True

C. Direction words

1. straight 2. left 3. across from 4. corner

D. Suggested answers

1. She thinks the museum is the hospital.
2. Her phone battery is almost empty.
3. Go straight for two blocks, turn left at the bank, and find the bakery across from the library.
4. She arrives five minutes early.
5. Answers will vary. Example: Excuse me, how do I get to the library?

KEEP GOING

Practice: Excuse me, how do I get to ____? Is it far?

ENGLISH MADE CLEAR. PROGRESS MADE REAL.