

Following Directions Worksheet

One step, two steps, and directions with concepts buried inside them.

MASTERED BY

ASHA places following a two-step direction ("Get the spoon, and put it on the table")

ITEMS

27

Age 3 to 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Following a direction is a listening and memory task as much as a language one. A child has to hold the whole instruction, work out the order, and act - and each extra step or extra concept costs them something. That is why "put the book on the shelf" can succeed while "before you put the book on the shelf, close it" fails, even though the vocabulary is the same.

What to expect: When a two-step direction is too much, the usual result is that only one step gets done - often the last one heard. That is a working memory limit, not defiance, and the giveaway is that both steps succeed when given separately. Directions with concepts inside them (first, before, the big one) are harder again, because the concept has to be decoded while the list is being held.

One Step

Read each direction once. See what the child does.

1. Touch your nose.
2. Stand up.
3. Pick up the red block.
4. Give me the spoon.
5. Open the book.
6. Clap your hands.
7. Put the cup on the table.

Two Steps

Read each direction once, all the way through, before the child acts.

8. Touch your head and then jump.

9. Pick up the block and put it in the box.
10. Stand up and turn around.
11. Give me the spoon and take the fork.
12. Close the book and put it on the shelf.
13. Clap twice and then sit down.
14. Get your shoes and bring them here.

Two Steps with a Concept Inside

These have a size, color, number or order word buried in them. Read each one once.

15. Put the big block in the box, not the little one.
16. Before you sit down, touch the door.
17. Pick up the blue crayon and give me the red one.
18. Give me two blocks and keep one.
19. After you close the book, put it under the chair.
20. Touch the last one in the row.
21. Put the cup between the two plates.
22. First clap, then stand up.

Three Steps

For older children. Read once, then wait - do not repeat it straight away.

23. Stand up, touch the door, and sit back down.
24. Pick up the red block, put it in the box, and close the lid.
25. Get a paper towel, wipe the table, and throw it away.
26. Clap your hands, say your name, and point to the window.

27. Take off your shoes, put them by the door, and wash your hands.

Answer Key

One Step

1. touches nose
2. stands up
3. picks up red block
4. hands over spoon
5. opens book
6. claps
7. cup on table

Two Steps

8. touches head, jumps
9. block into box
10. stands, turns
11. hands spoon, takes fork
12. closes book, shelves it
13. claps twice, sits
14. fetches shoes

Two Steps with a Concept Inside

15. big block only
16. touches door first, then sits
17. blue picked up, red handed over
18. hands over two
19. closes, then under chair
20. touches the last
21. cup in the middle
22. claps, then stands

Three Steps

23. all three in order
24. all three in order
25. all three in order
26. all three in order
27. all three in order