



What are DIRECTION WORDS?

Direction words are words that tell you how to do something because they are "doing words" or verbs.



You will find direction words in activities you are asked to do in class, in your assignments or in your final examinations. Understanding what direction words are and what they mean is very important to you as a student because they tell you how to answer a question or respond to instructions.

The following assignment topics have direction words in **bold type**.

- Compare and contrast** the Marxist account of society and social change with the capitalist account. Which is more plausible?
- Explain** the types of sedimentary environments that relate to the generation of sedimentary rocks and their structures.
- Analyse** three model of marketing. Which one best fits small business?
- Trace** the history of accounting practices. **Show** how these methods have been adopted in modern industry.
- Evaluate** the contribution of economic theories to raising living standards in rural areas.

If you don't know what "compare and contrast", "discuss", "analyse", "trace", "show" and "evaluate" mean you will not be able to write essays of acceptable standard for the topics given as examples.

Now, try the *Direction Words Matching*



Activity

Direction Words Matching

Match the following direction words with their meanings. A dictionary will help. **NB:** The meanings of some directions words are very close. **Start with the easiest words first. Do the exercise BEFORE you look at the answers.**

Analyse	Justify
Summarise	Calculate
State	Enumerate
Compare	Identity
Define	Account for
Evaluate	Suggest
Determine	Examine
Explain	Discuss
Criticise	Distinguish between
Describe	Contrast
Estimate	Review
Outline	Trace
Give an account of	Relate
Derive	Interpret
Illustrate	

The first one has been done for you: "Compare" = "Look at the similarities and differences between".

01 Show how two or more things are BOTH similar and different.	COMPARE
02 Work out exactly.	
03 Present the most important information about something in a carefully organised manner.	
04 Give reasons for, explain.	

05 Give your judgements of, approve or disapprove.	
06 Show or explain the differences between.	
07 Present the different aspects of an idea, statement or problem with the view of reaching a conclusion.	
08 Give some ideas about.	
09 Work out an approximate/rough figure or judgement.	
10 Present, say or write something in a brief, clear form.	
11 Give a listing.	
12 To translate, and usually, to give your own judgement also.	
13 Work out by reasoning or deductions (from general to specific).	
14 To clarify or make something clear and understandable.	
15 Look at thoroughly, inquire into.	
16 Present a full detailed picture of something in words to include important characteristics and qualities.	
17 Describe, give a list of reasons for something.	
18 Bring out the differences between two or more things.	
19 Establish or say what it is, distinguish from other items, point out.	
20 Come to conclusions about after calculations/discussions.	
21 Present the main points about something in a brief form.	
22 Examine the various sides of a questions so that you can arrive at a judgement; make an appraisal of the value of something.	
23 Make clear by the use of examples—in some subjects/instances, use of diagrams to explain something.	
24 Show adequate grounds for decisions and conclusions.	
25 Break something down into its parts and show how the parts relate to each other to make the whole.	
26 To narrate or tell about; to show how things are connected to each other and to what extent they are alike.	

27 Make a survey of a subject by examining it critically.	
28 Follow the development of a topic from a particular point.	
29 Explain the meaning of something in a brief specific manner.	



Answers

29 Define
 28 Trace
 27 Review
 26 Relate
 25 Analyse
 24 Justify
 23 Illustrate
 22 Evaluate
 21 Summarise
 20 Determine
 19 Identify
 18 Contrast
 account of
 17 Give an
 16 Describe
 15 Examine
 14 Explain
 13 Derive
 12 Interpret
 11 Enumerate
 10 State
 09 Estimate
 08 Suggest
 07 Discuss
 between
 06 Distinguish
 05 Criticise
 04 Account for
 03 Outline
 02 Calculate
 01 Compare