BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish

Speaking: A2

Giving instructions

In this video, Vanya helps Emir learn how to use a new coffee machine. Listen to the language Vanya uses to give instructions and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Write a number (1–6) to put the instructions for replying to an email in the correct order.

_____ Correct any mistakes you see and read it again to have a last check.

_____ Then think carefully about what you need to say.

_____ Next, write the email.

_____ First, choose 'reply' on the email you need to respond to.

_____ Finally, choose 'send'.

_____ After that, check the email by reading it carefully.

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Emir doesn't know how the new coffee machine works.	True	False
2. Vanya arrives and offers to show Emir how it works.	True	False
3. Vanya's instructions are long and complicated.	True	False
4. Vanya tells Emir to try to make a coffee.	True	False
5. Emir doesn't want to try to follow the instructions himself.	True	False
6. The coffee Emir makes is terrible.	True	False

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Task 2

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. put First, the coffee here. you have to
2. with this. you Then press it down
3. put you this here. Next,
4. you just press After that, button. this
5. OK, clear. seems that
6. right. that's Yes,
7. do I do What next?
8. anything Is else? there

Task 3

Complete the sentences.

1. First, you ..... to put the coffee here.
2. After ..... , you just press this button.
3. OK, that ..... clear.
4. Is this ..... ?
5. Yes, that's ..... .
6. You're ..... well.
7. ..... do I do next?
8. Is there anything ..... ?

Discussion

When was the last time you gave instructions in English?

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Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say*!

Do you know what to say when you give instructions? Listen out for useful language for giving instructions. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Emir: Argh! It's not working.

Vanya: Are you OK?

Emir: Do you know how to use this machine?

Vanya: Yeah, I'll show you.

Emir: Ah, thanks.

Vanya: OK. First, you have to put the correct amount of coffee in here.

Emir: Aha.

Vanya: Then you press it down with this.

Emir: I see.

Vanya: Right, OK. Next, you put this here and turn it until it's quite tight.

Emir: Right.

Vanya: After that, you just press this button.

Emir: OK, that seems clear.

Vanya: Great! Now it's your turn.

Emir: Is this OK?

Vanya: Yes, that's right. Now press it down.

Emir: Like this?

Vanya: Yeah, you're doing well.

Emir: Thanks! What do I do next?

Vanya: Connect it to the machine.

Emir: Is there anything else?

Vanya: That's it. Just press the button.

Vanya: Well?

Emir: Delicious! Thank you.

Vanya: You're welcome.

Ana: Hello again! Oh, I love a good coffee! So, did you notice the useful phrases used for giving instructions? Listen to me and then repeat.

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First, you have to put the coffee here.

Then you press it down with this.

I see.

Right, OK. Next, you put this here.

After that, you just press this button.

OK, that seems clear.

Is this OK?

Yes, that's right.

Like this?

You're doing well.

What do I do next?

Is there anything else?

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you give instructions in English. Bye for now!

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