

# Following Directions Activities

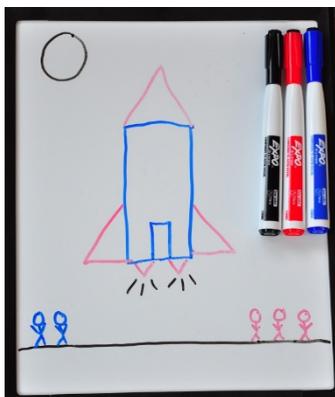
This handout contains a few sample following direction activities to help your children “warm-up their listening ears”. They are aimed toward middle to upper elementary, however, can be adapted for younger or older children. Most directions contain two steps. If this is too difficult for your child, then give each step separately. If they are too easy, then add another step or two from the next direction. If your child needs repetitions or a few hints, go ahead and give them. This should be a fun and challenging activity that allows them to be successful at the end. If they work well, use these ideas to generate your own following directions activities. A blank grid has been provided for you to use for other cutting activities.

## Tips:

Tell your children to wait until they hear the whole direction before they pick up their marker so that they listen to the whole direction. You may want to say “go” at the end of the direction. You may also want to tell them it is ok to touch the color they will need while you are reading the rest of the direction so they don’t forget it.

Sit your children so they are not able to see what each other is doing so that they stay focused on the directions and their own product.

**Finished products should look similar to this:**



# White Board Following Directions Activities

**Change a Word Directions:** You will be changing a phrase into a word by following these directions. (You need a dry erase board and marker for each listener.)

- 1) Turn whiteboard vertically, you may want to write 7 lines of text or you may just want to erase and rewrite letters
- 2) Write "WORK HARD" at the top.
- 3) Now, switch the K and the A and squish the two words together to make one. (WORAHKRD)
- 4) Change the W to a V and the D to a C. (VORAHKRC)
- 5) Now, switch the O and the second R and change the H to a T. (VRRATKOC)
- 6) Change the first R to an A and switch the second R with the C. (VACATKOR)
- 7) Switch the K and the R and then change the K to an N. (VACATRON)
- 8) Change the R to an I and add an exclamation point to the end of the word. What word do you have? (VACATION!)

**Make a Picture Directions** (You need blue, red, and black dry erase markers and dry erase boards for each listener.):

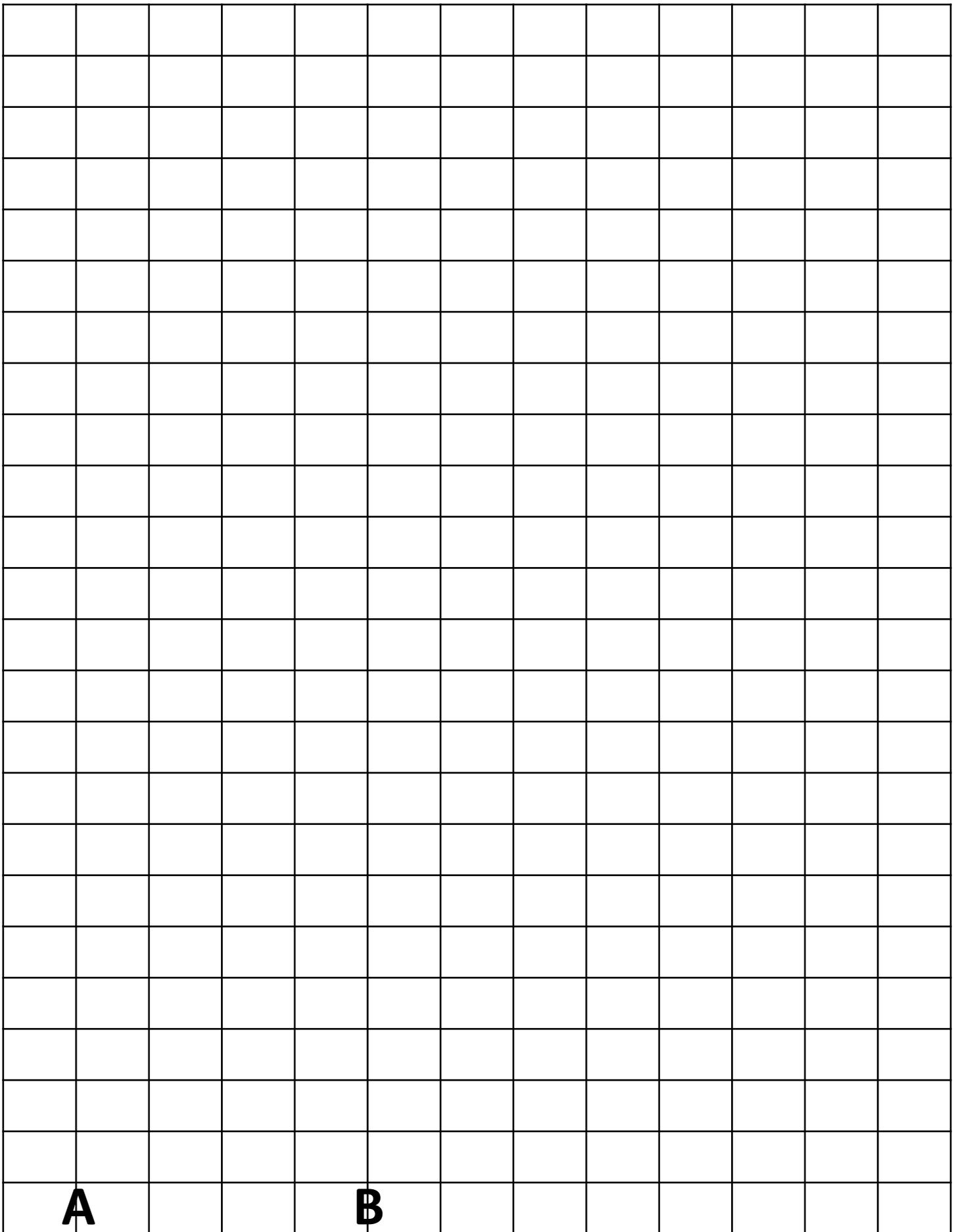
- 1) Hold your board vertically and in the middle of your white board, draw a blue rectangle.
- 2) At the top of the rectangle draw a large red triangle and at the bottom draw two small red triangles.
- 3) Draw 3 small black lines coming out of each of those small red triangles.
- 4) Near the bottom of the rectangle, draw a medium, red triangle coming out of each side.
- 5) Near the top of the board draw a black circle and near the bottom of the board draw a black line from the left side of the board to the right.
- 6) Draw five people standing on that black line. Three should be red and two should be blue.
- 7) With your blue marker draw a small door at the bottom of the blue rectangle. What did you make?

# Cut Out a Shape Directions

Print one grid with the letters A and B (on the next page) for each listener.

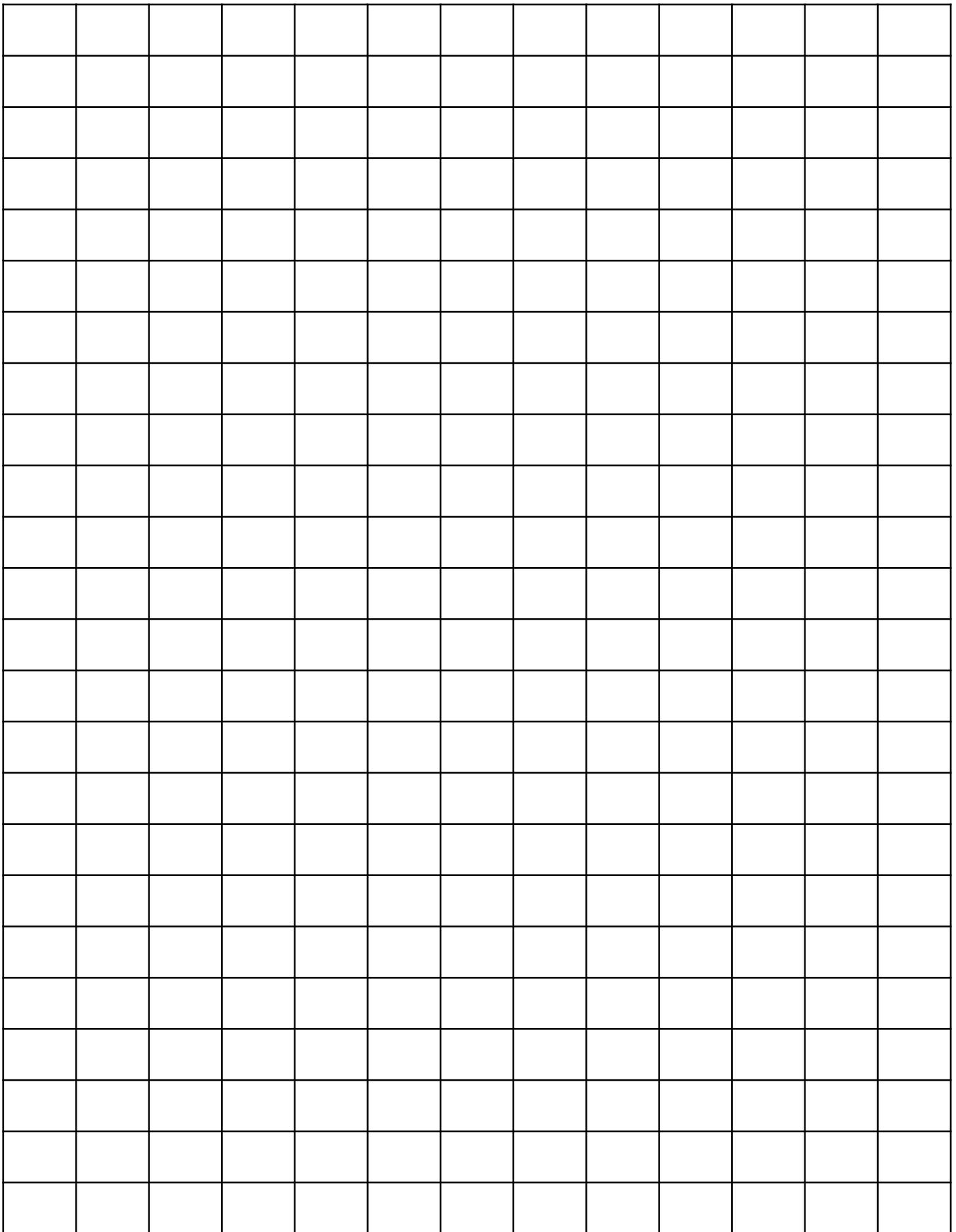
- 1) Start at point A and cut straight up 12 squares.
- 2) Turn scissors right, cut 1 square. Turn scissors left, cut 1 square.
- 3) Turn scissors right, cut 1 square. Turn scissors left, cut 1 square.
- 4) Turn scissors right, cut 1 square. Turn scissors left, cut 1 square.
- 5) Turn scissors right, cut 1 square. Turn scissors left, cut 1 square.
- 6) Turn scissors right, cut 1 square. Turn scissors left, cut 1 square.
- 7) Turn scissors right, cut 1 square. Turn scissor right, cut 1 square.
- 8) Turn scissors left, cut 1 square. Turn scissors right, cut 1 square.
- 9) Turn scissors left, cut 1 square. Turn scissors right, cut 1 square.
- 10) Turn scissors left, cut 1 square. Turn scissors right, cut 1 square.
- 11) Turn scissors left, cut 1 square. Turn scissors right, cut 1 square.
- 12) Turn scissors left, cut 1 square. Turn scissors right, cut 12 squares.
- 13) Turn right and cut straight until you run out of paper.
- 14) Start at point B and cut straight up 5 squares.
- 15) Turn right and cut 3 squares and stop cutting.
- 16) Fold door open and you have a building that you can add windows to if you would like.

Note: You may need to coach your children in the beginning as to the difference between turning the scissors left vs. turning the paper to the left! 😊



**A**

**B**



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