DRAMA · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 2–5

Stage Directions Chart

The nine areas of the stage on one page, with a note on why the back of the stage is called upstage.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Stage directions name the parts of the stage from the actor's side. Stage right is the actor's right hand side when they face the audience, and stage left is the actor's left. For the audience it is the other way around.

Upstage is the back of the stage, away from the audience. Downstage is the front, closest to the audience. Long ago many stages sloped up toward the back so the audience could see better, so actors really did walk up to go upstage.

The nine stage areas

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

Upstage right USR	**Upstage center** USC	**Upstage left** USL
Stage right SR	**Center stage** CS	**Stage left** SL
Downstage right DSR	**Downstage center** DSC	**Downstage left** DSL

AUDIENCE

Art © Kevin Coulston

DRAMA · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 2–5

Label the Stage Areas

Write the short name of each of the nine stage areas in its box, from USR to DSL.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Short names: **U** = up, **D** = down, **S** = stage, **R** = right, **L** = left, **C** = center. So **USR** is upstage right and **CS** is center stage. Remember: stage right is the actor's right, on the audience's left.

Short names

USR · USC · USL · SR · CS · SL · DSR · DSC · DSL

Write the short name of each area in its box.

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

AUDIENCE

Art © Kevin Coulston

DRAMA · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 2–4

Stage Left or Stage Right?

Read where each actor is and which way they face. Circle stage left or stage right.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Stage left and stage right are always the **actor's** left and right when the actor faces the audience. The audience's left is stage right.

Circle where each actor is or where they go.

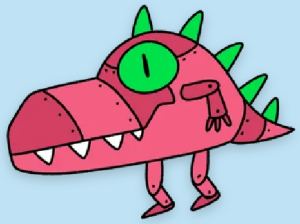
1. You face the audience and walk toward your right hand. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
2. You face the audience and walk toward your left hand. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
3. From their seats, the audience sees you exit on their left. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
4. From their seats, the audience sees you stand on their right. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
5. You face the audience. The door on the set is by your left hand. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
6. You face the audience and enter from the wings on your right. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
7. The director sits in the audience and points to their own left. — **Stage left** **Stage right**
8. Your back is to the audience, and you walk toward your right hand. — **Stage left** **Stage right**

Art © Kevin Coulston

DRAMA · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 3–5

Follow the Stage Directions

Start where each direction says, follow it and circle the stage area where you end up.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Use the stage plan: **upstage** is away from the audience, **downstage** is toward it, and **stage right** is on your right as you face the audience.

Stage plan

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

USR	USC	USL
SR	CS	SL
DSR	DSC	DSL

AUDIENCE

Circle where you end up.

1. Start at center stage. Walk toward the audience.
   Upstage center · Downstage center · Stage left

2. Start at center stage. Walk to your right as you face the audience.
   Stage right · Stage left · Upstage right

3. Start at center stage. Walk away from the audience.
   Downstage center · Stage right · Upstage center

4. Start at downstage center. Walk to your left as you face the audience.
   Downstage left · Downstage right · Stage left

5. Start at stage right. Walk upstage one area.
   Downstage right · Upstage right · Center stage

6. Start at upstage left. Walk downstage two areas.
   Stage left · Downstage center · Downstage left

7. Start at downstage right. Cross to stage left through center stage.
   Stage left · Upstage left · Downstage left

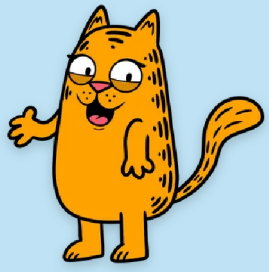
Art © Kevin Coulston

DRAMA · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 3–5

Place the Actors

Read where each actor stands and write their letter in the right stage area. Then plan your own scene.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Where does each actor stand?

R = Robot stands upstage left. F = Frog stands upstage right. C = Cat stands center stage.

D = Dog stands stage left. M = Monster stands downstage right. B = Bunny stands downstage center.

Write each actor's letter in the right area.

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

USR	USC	USL
SR	CS	SL
DSR	DSC	DSL

AUDIENCE

Now you: write three stage directions for a partner to follow.

1. Start at _____

2. Then cross to _____

3. End at _____

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Label the Stage Areas

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Short names: **U** = up, **D** = down, **S** = stage, **R** = right, **L** = left, **C** = center. So **USR** is upstage right and **CS** is center stage. Remember: stage right is the actor's right, on the audience's left.

Short names

USR · USC · USL · SR · CS · SL · DSR · DSC · DSL

Write the short name of each area in its box.

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

USR	USC	USL
SR	CS	SL
DSR	DSC	DSL

AUDIENCE

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Stage Left or Stage Right?

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Stage left and stage right are always the **actor's** left and right when the actor faces the audience. The audience's left is stage right.

Circle where each actor is or where they go.

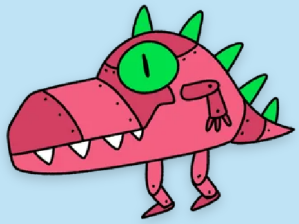
1. You face the audience and walk toward your right hand. — Stage left / **Stage right**
2. You face the audience and walk toward your left hand. — **Stage left** / Stage right
3. From their seats, the audience sees you exit on their left. — Stage left / **Stage right**
4. From their seats, the audience sees you stand on their right. — **Stage left** / Stage right
5. You face the audience. The door on the set is by your left hand. — **Stage left** / Stage right
6. You face the audience and enter from the wings on your right. — Stage left / **Stage right**
7. The director sits in the audience and points to their own left. — Stage left / **Stage right**
8. Your back is to the audience, and you walk toward your right hand. — **Stage left** / Stage right

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Follow the Stage Directions

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Use the stage plan: **upstage** is away from the audience, **downstage** is toward it, and **stage right** is on your right as you face the audience.

Stage plan

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

USR	USC	USL
SR	CS	SL
DSR	DSC	DSL

AUDIENCE

Circle where you end up.

1. Start at center stage. Walk toward the audience.
   Upstage center · **Downstage center** · Stage left

2. Start at center stage. Walk to your right as you face the audience.
   Stage right · Stage left · Upstage right

3. Start at center stage. Walk away from the audience.
   Downstage center · Stage right · **Upstage center**

4. Start at downstage center. Walk to your left as you face the audience.
   Downstage left · Downstage right · Stage left

5. Start at stage right. Walk upstage one area.
   Downstage right · **Upstage right** · Center stage

6. Start at upstage left. Walk downstage two areas.
   Stage left · Downstage center · **Downstage left**

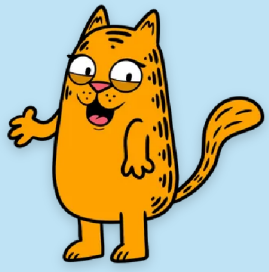
7. Start at downstage right. Cross to stage left through center stage.
   Stage left · Upstage left · Downstage left

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · THE STAGE AND STAGE DIRECTIONS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Place the Actors

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Where does each actor stand?

R = Robot stands upstage left. F = Frog stands upstage right. C = Cat stands center stage.

D = Dog stands stage left. M = Monster stands downstage right. B = Bunny stands downstage center.

Write each actor's letter in the right area.

BACK OF THE STAGE (UPSTAGE)

USR: F	USC:	USL: R
SR:	CS: C	SL: D
DSR: M	DSC: B	DSL:

AUDIENCE

Now you: write three stage directions for a partner to follow.

1. Start at _____

2. Then cross to _____

3. End at _____

Art © Kevin Coulston