

Curriculum Sharing

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### **Lesson – Debits & Credits**

In teaching students to understand the idea of “Left = Debit” and “Right = Credit”, I have found using the visual of “Washington D.C.” to be very effective. They start to associate D with left and C with right (since we read from left to right).

Once I introduce this concept and use D.C. as their mental shortcut, I launch into a slide show of pictures of a recent trip I took to Washington D.C.! It is effective because:

- It is totally unexpected.
- It is the first few weeks of class, so I’m really trying to get their attention.
- It gives them a chance to know me as a teacher outside the classroom through a FEW of my personal pictures.
- It really gets them thinking about the order of D on the left, C on the right.

After this introduction, I ask a few volunteers to give directions from school to specific restaurants or hangouts using the words Debit for left and Credit for right.

For example, I would ask someone to give me directions to Little Caesar’s Pizza and they would reply, “Turn debit onto 76<sup>th</sup> street and then take a credit onto Harwood Ave. etc.”