

# Safety Syntax

1. Say to Yourself:  
"It is Loaded " !
2. Ask Yourself:  
"Where is a safe place to point it ?"  
"I am going to point it **Right-There** !
3. Ask Yourself:  
"What is behind that ?"
4. Then, With Your Finger Straight  
Pick-up the Gun and Point it Right-There.
5. Tell Yourself:  
"I am responsible for my gun 24/7."

**Now it's safe to check the condition of the firearm !**

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**Ask:** What is a Syntax?

**Explain:** It's an order in which things occur.

**Ask:** If I gave you the numbers to a combination lock, would you be able to open the lock?

**Explain:** Only if I gave you the "order" of the numbers. We want you to think of the Safety rules in this order.

**Click: Animation...#1 Say to Yourself...**

**Explain:** The 1<sup>st</sup> thing you do before you pick-up a gun is: Say to yourself "It's loaded"

**Click: Animation...#2 Ask Yourself...**

**Explain:** This is part two of the syntax for safety. The key to this step is to identify where you're going to point the gun before you actually pick it up. Picking up the gun and then wondering where a safe direction is, violates the syntax. It is out of sequence. You must think; The gun is loaded and I'm going to point it "Right There"! (Safe Direction) The more specific you are with the "right there" the greater the chances are that the muzzle will move from whatever direction it is pointing at the time you're picking it up, to where a safe direction would be.

**Click: Animation...#3 Ask Yourself...**

**Explain:** After you have said to yourself that the gun is loaded, and as you're thinking where would be a safe place to point the gun, you should also be asking what is beyond that? This will dictate what is a safe direction.

**Click: Animation...#4 Then with your finger straight...**

**Explain:** The fourth part of the syntax is; when you pick up the firearm, you point with your finger straight along the frame of the gun, in the direction that you've determined to be safe.

**Click: Animation...#5 Tell Yourself...**

**Explain:** Now make the commitment that you will be responsible for your firearm 24/7

**Demonstrate the Process:** Look at the gun, say out-loud "It's loaded", I'm going to point it "right there" (a safe place, and beyond), share why it's a safe place, with your finger outside the trigger guard (show students your straight finger), and pick up the gun and point it into the predetermined safe place.

**Click: Animation...Now it's safe...**

**Explain:** Now and only now, is it safe to check the condition of the firearm.

**Explain:** The tendency of most shooters is to pick up the gun and want to check its condition of being "Loaded" or "Unloaded". They pick up the gun and begin to manipulate it before they have observed or followed rule # 2 or #3

**Explain:** If you follow the Syntax of Firearms Safety you will consistently handle the gun in a safe manner.

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