How To Use A Compass (more detailed instructions)

The picture on the right shows the different parts of a compass.

If you have a map and you know where you are and where you want to go, you can find a bearing. A bearing is the direction you want to travel. $$\tt N$$

Think of a circle with 360 degrees. You are at the center of the circle. North is 0° (and also 360°, v like 12 on a clock is both the start and end of the hour). East is 90°, south is 180°, and west is 270°.

Now let's find a bearing!

#1 First, line up the orienting arrow with your direction-of-travel arrow (so the red outline in the circle is pointing the



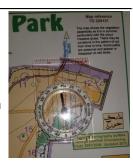
same way as the arrow on the baseplate). You do this by turning the compass housing with the degree dial.

#2

Find north on your compass by lining up the magnetic needle inside the orienting arrow. Like this:



#3 Turn your map so "north" is facing the same direction as north on your compass. You can



place the compass on the map's compass rose or the lines that point north.

#4

Once the map is pointed north, find where you are located on



the map and where you want to go. In this example, you are at point #11, and you want to go to point #12. Imagine a line between the two points in this example

#5



a red line has been drawn. Point your compass's direction-of-travel arrow along the line, starting at your current location and pointing where you want to go.

#6

Rotate the compass housing (not



the whole compass—just the dial!) until the orienting arrow is lined up with the red end of the magnetic needle. Now look at the number right on the index line. That number is your bearing!

Pick the compass up, off the map.

#7 Holding the compass flat in front of you, have the direction-of-travel arrow pointing directly away from you, rotate yourself (holding the compass), until the magnetic needle is lined up inside the orienting arrow again. Walk in the direction the direction-of-travel arrow points you



(the direction of your bearing) for the distance stated, until you reach your destination.

Tip: If you are given a starting point and a list of bearings and distances, you can complete an orienteering



course without using a map!

