

# Bearings

**A bearing is a method of indicating direction. It is the angle, measured in a clockwise direction, between North and a line joining two known points**

## Types of Bearing

As there are three different kinds of north points, there are three kinds of bearings, according to the north point from which they have been measured:

A **Magnetic** bearing is one taken with a compass. (An accurate compass needle always points to magnetic north.)

A **Grid** bearing is one measured on the map with the compass used as a protractor.

A **True** bearing cannot be measured direct, but must be calculated from one of the other two. However, this can be ignored for practical map reading purposes.

## Measuring a Grid Bearing

To take a grid bearing from a map the compass can be used as a protractor, **ignoring the compass needle**.

To read a grid bearing from check point to check point place the compass with a long side on a line drawn between them and with the direction of travel arrow pointing in the direction of travel.

Then turn the graduated circles so that the north arrow points towards grid north and is parallel to the north-south (Easting) grid lines.

The grid bearing is then read off at the point where the tail of the line of travel arrows cuts the graduations on the circle.

