

Compass Activity 3: “What’s My Bearing?”

Aim:

- Part (a): To use orienteering compasses to find bearings and their corresponding back bearings for a short orienteering course.
- Part (b): To transfer the bearings and set the same course outside on the ground.

Together the two parts of this activity will teach reading bearings from a map and following bearings in the field.

What you need:

- Worksheet(see next page)
- Orienteering compass
- Markers for Part (b), for example dowel rods

Instructions for youth:

Part (a):

Use a compass to find the bearings between the checkpoints shown on the orienteering course on your worksheet in the order given. S is for start and F is for finish.

Using an orienteering compass you will need to align the indicated north lines on your worksheet with north on the compass. This may require you to turn your page somewhat. It is good practice for ‘orienting’ a map.

Part (b):

Use the bearings recorded in your table on the worksheet and an orienteering compass to set the course on the ground outside. Use 10(ten) regular paces between each station and place a marker at each station as you come to it. To pace, begin with your right foot and count a pace each time you step on your left foot.

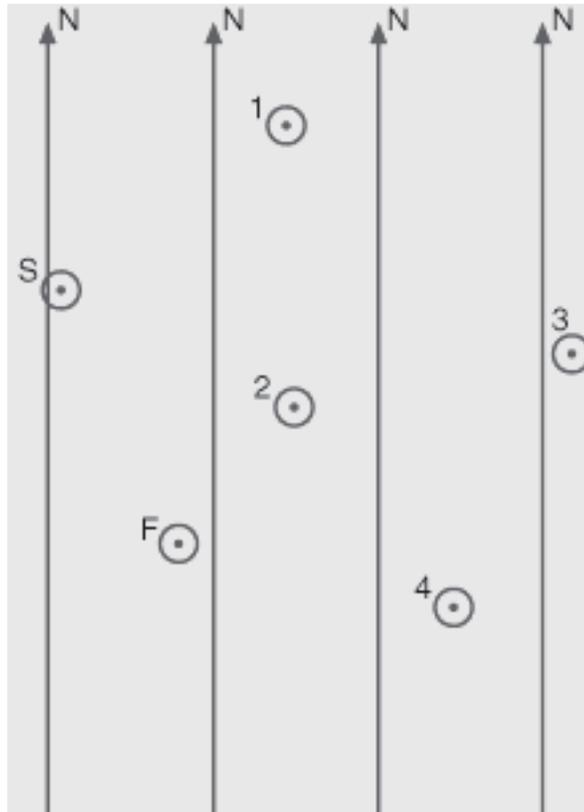
When you reach F, take a bearing to S. If you have been accurate this bearing should be quite close to the one you recorded in the table on your worksheet.

Follow the course back from F to S, picking up the markers as you go, and check that the back bearings you recorded are correct.

See next page for worksheet.

Worksheet: "What's My Bearing?" Activity 3

Part (a):



Part (b):

PATH	BEARING	BACK BEARING
S → 1		
1 → 2		
2 → 3		
3 → 4		
4 → F		
F → S		