



Once you leave this course, if you don't practice the skills taught often, you will begin to forget what to do. Here are some helpful memory joggers.

<p>Cardinal and SubCardinal and SubsubCardinal Directions with degrees at Cardinal points</p>	<p>Using a compass card and comparing Cardinal points and an analog clock face</p>
<p>Match the Contour Lines to the Topographic Profile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Ruler in Centimeters 2 - Base Plate 3 - Direction of Travel 4 - Orienting Lines 5 - Orienting Arrow 6 - Liquid Capsule 7 - Ruler in Inches 8 - USGS Map Scale 9 - Dial with Graduations 10 - Magnetic Needle 11 - Declination Scale 12 - Lanyard
<p>Topo map contours with profiles matched</p>	<p>Basic parts of a baseplate compass</p>



	<p>Write bearings like: $xxx^{\circ} T$ or $xxx^{\circ} M$</p> <p>$33^{\circ} T$ or $256^{\circ} M$</p> <p>You say it, “33 degrees True or 256 degrees Magnetic”</p>
<p>How to convert a True Bearing to a Magnetic Bearing (Add the declination in VERMONT)</p>	<p>How to write a bearing and to say it.</p>

How to use a compass with a map [True North or protractor method](#)

This method can be used with any map showing True North and Magnetic North or with declination listed and gridlines. It allows you to place the map on any surface regardless of magnetic surfaces or electronic devices.

1. **Lay map flat.**
2. **Put 2 dots on map showing starting point and ending point.**
3. **Connect the dots** with a thin pencil line using a straight edge. You may need to extend this line.
4. **Align the compass base plate with the straight line drawn** with the direction heading from start to finish.
5. **Rotate the dial until the orienteering arrow lines match the map's North/South grid lines with N pointing NORTH.** You may need to slide the compass along the drawn line in order to get proper alignment.
6. **Read the bearing under the index line.** This is the “True North” bearing.
7. **Adjust for declination.** Compensate for the difference between true north and magnetic north at your site. Check the bottom left corner of the map and read the declination. Xxx degrees East or West.
8. **West declination (VT and all of New England)?** Add to your “True North” bearing to get your local land bearing. (West is best)
9. **East declination?** Subtract from your “True North” bearing to get your local land bearing. (East is least)
10. **Always write the bearing** $xxx^{\circ}T$ or $xxx^{\circ}M$