

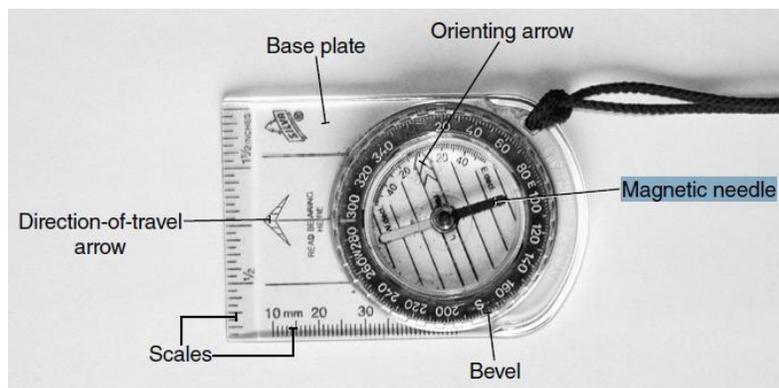
How to use a compass

A compass is basically a 360° protractor that has a needle that will point to magnetic north. By referring to the north (**red**) end of the magnetic needle and lining it up with the orienting arrow (**bed**) that is imprinted on the bottom inside the compass housing, you can read the direction (number of degrees from north) you are going to travel. The **direction-of-travel arrow (DTA)** on the base of the compass points the way!

Parts of the compass

The following diagram displays the parts of the compass. You should be familiar with

- i) the cardinal directions and
- ii) the intercardinal directions.

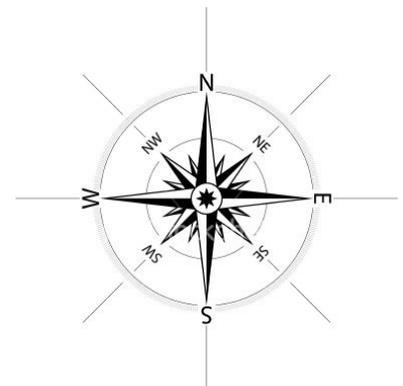


The cardinal directions include the four main points on the compass:

- **North** (located at the top)
- **South** (located at the bottom)
- **East** (located on the right side)
- **West** (located on the left side)

The intercardinal directions are located between each of the four cardinal points:

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Southeast
- Southwest



Steps for Orienteering to Magnetic North

Step 1: Hold the compass level in your hand in front of your stomach

Step 2: Position the compass so the DTA is pointing straight out from the midline of your body

Step 3: While holding the compass securely, turn the dial until the north lines up with the DTA

Step 4: Turn yourself and the compass, still holding it flat and in front of you with the DTA pointing straight out, until the red end of the magnetic needle points to the letter "N" (*put red in the bed*)

Step 5: You are now facing magnetic north and the DTA is pointing to magnetic north.



Dialing and following a Bearing

Bearing: is a horizontal angle fixing a direction in respects to North.

On the base plate of most compasses where the direction-of- travel arrow meets the compass dial, there is a small black or white line and the words "Read bearing here."

1. Twist the compass dial until the desired bearing is placed over the "**Read bearing here**" line.
2. By shuffling the feet, turn in a circle until the red arrow (north arrow) is positioned within the thick orienteering arrow at the base of the compass dial—red is now in the bed