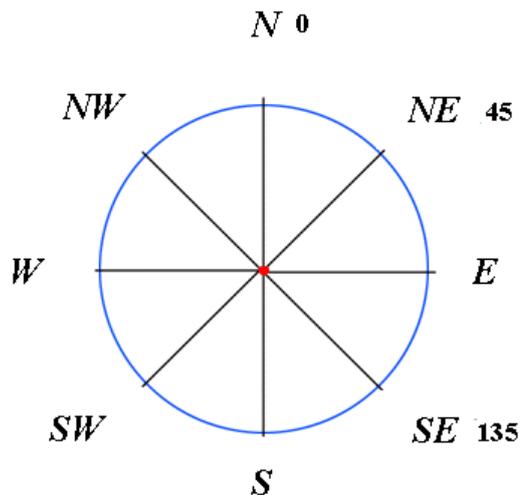


Compass bearings



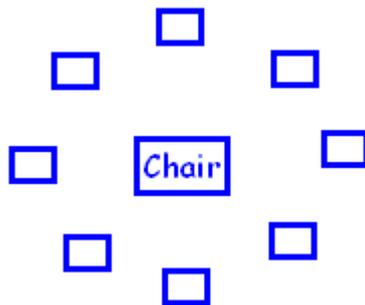
Here is a compass. Notice the numbers at north, and north east: these are bearings, which are similar to angles. Sometimes, these are used instead of the words north, south, east and west.

Fill in the bearings on the other directions. As you can see, north east is on a bearing of 45 degrees. To get east, add another 45 degrees. Keep going, all the way round the compass. You should find that west has a bearing of 270 degrees, and north west is 315 degrees.

Activity: can you *hear* bearings?

This game will help you practise bearings, and also shows how your ears work with your brain to tell you where sounds are coming from. You will need a chair, paper and pencil, a blindfold, and somebody to help you.

Place the chair in the centre of the room, or garden, and the bearings (written on pieces of paper) around it, like this. Make sure the chair is facing towards bearing 0, at north. **Optional task:** use Google Maps, or a compass on your phone to find out which way north really is.



Sit in the chair, facing towards bearing 0. You will have to remember where the bearings are: to help you, say them out loud, pointing at each one. When you are sure you know where the bearings are, ask your helper to blindfold you: make sure you cannot see at all.

Ask your helper to stand on one of the bearings, and to say “what’s my bearing?”. Tell them which bearing you think they are on. Your helper should write down which bearing they were standing on, and your guess, for at least six different bearings. How many did you get right?

Some people cannot hear well with both ears, and often find it difficult to tell where sounds are coming from. Try doing the experiment while covering one of your ears; can you tell where the sound comes from then?

