Bearings: fact sheet

Planner week 13 · Learn these facts

Three rules

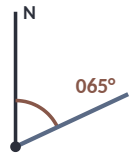
1. from North

2. clockwise

3. three figures

65° is written **065°**

Measuring



Put the protractor on the **from** point

Zero on North

"B from A"

stand at A

face North, turn to B

The word after "from" is where you start

Back bearings

bearing < 180: add 180

bearing > 180: subtract 180

147° → 327°

The way back is opposite

Key words

- **Bearing** an angle measured clockwise from North
- **Three figures** e.g. 065°, 147°, 322°
- **Back bearing** the bearing for the return trip
- **Scale** how map lengths match real lengths

Exam tips

- Find the word "from": start there.
- Draw a North line at the start point if there is not one.
- Always clockwise from North.
- Write three figures: 070°, not 70°.
- Back bearing: ± 180°.
- Measure carefully: answers are marked within ± 2°.

Over 180°

measure the angle anticlockwise

then 360 − angle

Or use a 360° protractor

Map scales

1 cm represents 4 km

5.4 cm → 21.6 km

Measure in cm, then multiply

Drawing

draw N line

measure the angle

mark the distance

Use a sharp pencil

Mark with a cross (×)

Compass

North	000°
East	090°
South	180°
West	270°

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Worked example

QUESTION

The bearing of B from A is 070°.

Work out the bearing of A from B.

ANSWER

1. The way back faces the opposite direction.
2. 70 is less than 180, so add 180: 70 + 180 = 250

250°

The return trip faces the opposite way: add or subtract 180°.

How to do it

1. Find the “from” point and put the protractor there.
2. Line up zero with the North line.
3. Measure clockwise to the line.
4. Over 180°: measure anticlockwise and do 360 − angle.
5. Write the bearing with three figures.

Model answer:

070 + 180 = 250°

Watch out

- Measuring from the wrong point.
- Measuring anticlockwise.
- Writing 65° instead of 065°.