Bearings

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Kenderdine Maths Tutoring

There are three things you need to know about whole-circle bearings:

(1) Bearings are measured clockwise from north and vary from 000° to 360°
(2) The angle between two lines is the difference between bearings
(3) The difference between forward and reverse bearings is 180°

Figure 1 illustrates the first two properties.The bearing of *A* from *O* is 200° and the bearing of *B* from *O* is 130°, both measured clockwise from north. The difference in bearings, 70°, is the angle *AOB*.
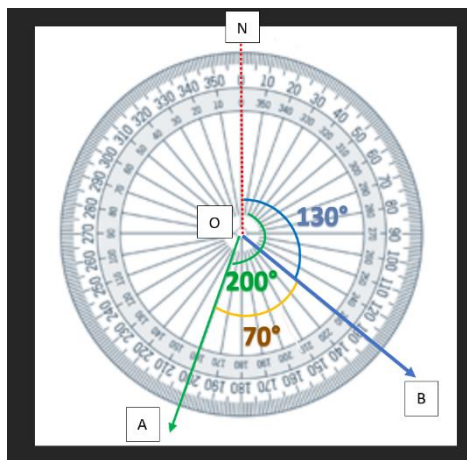

Figure 1

Figure 2 illustrates the third property. The forward bearing from *A* to *B* is 135° while the reverse bearing from *B* to *A* is 135° + 180° = 315°. Of course this could be the other way around, the forward bearing being 315° and the reverse bearing 135° - the difference is always 180°
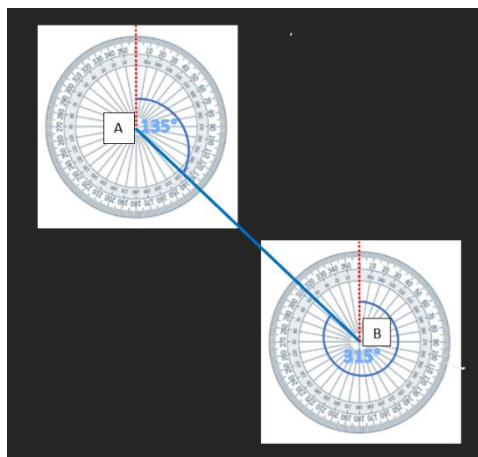

Figure 2