

English Ladder

Student Workbook

Directions & Locations: A Detailed Explanation for Non-Native English Speakers



A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.

Grammar Concepts #19

Key Points

Additional Example Sentences:

Conclusion

Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Directions & Locations: A Detailed Explanation for Non-Native English Speakers** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

ENGLISH LADDER

Concept #19 ► Directions & Locations

The vertical terms **north**, **south**, **top**, and **bottom** come first when referring to compound directions and locations.

Top-left N Top-right
SWW SNE
W E
SWW SE
Bottom-left S Bottom-right

He signed his name in the **bottom-right** corner of the contract.

She noticed an error at the **top** of the document.

More snow falls in the **North**.
(Named areas are capitalized.)

We headed **northeast** in the sailboat.

We returned to the **northeastern** region.

Strong, **southwesterly** winds slowed our progress in the sailboat.
(Note the "n" is missing in the adverb form.)

He is from **Southeast** Asia.

Note how prepositions, hyphens, and capitalization are used in these examples.

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Core Idea

The image provides an overview of how to use vertical terms such as north, south, top, and bottom when referring to compound directions and locations in English. Let's break down these concepts further and explore them with more examples.

Quick reference

Basic Compass Directions	North (N)
Basic Compass Directions	Northeast (NE)
Vertical Terms in Compound Directions	Top-left: This means the upper-left corner of an area or object. "Place your name at the top-left corner of the page."
Directions in Context	Capitalized Named Areas: North: Named regions are often capitalized. "More snow falls in the North." South: Refers to the southern region, often capitalized when named. "He is from the South."
Prepositions, Hyphens, and Capitalization	Prepositions: Use prepositions to describe the relationship between objects and directions. "She noticed an error at the top of the document."

Key Points

Basic Compass Directions

The basic compass directions are:

- North (N)
- East (E)
- South (S)
- West (W)

When combining these basic directions to indicate more specific locations, we get compound directions:

- Northeast (NE)
- Northwest (NW)
- Southeast (SE)



- Southwest (SW)

Vertical Terms in Compound Directions

Vertical terms like top, bottom, north, and south are used to describe more precise locations within an area.

- Top-left: This means the upper-left corner of an area or object. "Place your name at the top-left corner of the page."
- Top-right: This refers to the upper-right corner. "The title is written in the top-right of the document."
- Bottom-left: This indicates the lower-left corner. "Please sign your initials in the bottom-left corner of the form."
- Bottom-right: This means the lower-right corner. "He signed his name in the bottom-right corner of the contract."

Directions in Context

When referring to regions or specific directions, here are some guidelines and examples:

- Capitalized Named Areas: North: Named regions are often capitalized. "More snow falls in the North."
South: Refers to the southern region, often capitalized when named. "He is from the South."
- Compass Directions: Northeast: Combining north and east. "We headed northeast in the sailboat."
Northwestern: Describes something pertaining to the northwest region. "We returned to the northwestern region."
- Adverb Forms: Southwesterly: This describes the direction of the wind or movement. Note the form. "Strong, southwesterly winds slowed our progress in the sailboat."
Northeastward: Indicates movement towards the northeast. "The birds flew northeastward."

Prepositions, Hyphens, and Capitalization

It's important to understand how to use prepositions, hyphens, and capitalization in these contexts.

- Prepositions: Use prepositions to describe the relationship between objects and directions. "She noticed an error at the top of the document."
- Hyphens: Use hyphens in compound directions to clarify meaning. "The sign is in the top-left corner."
- Capitalization: Capitalize named regions. "He is from Southeast Asia."

Additional Example Sentences:

- "The library is in the northeast part of the campus."
- "We camped in the northwestern forest last summer."
- "Look at the bottom-right of the screen for the settings icon."
- "The company expanded to the southwestern states."
- "Our office is located on the top-right corner of the building."



- "Place the decorative items in the bottom-left section of the shelf."

Conclusion

Understanding how to use these directional terms and locations helps in providing precise information. By practicing these concepts, non-native speakers can enhance their ability to describe positions and locations accurately in English. Remember to pay attention to prepositions, hyphens, and capitalization to ensure clarity and correctness in your communication.



Practice Check

Answer the quiz questions below with responses consistent with the grammar concepts taught on the left.

ITEM 01

In compound directions, "east" should always come before "north".

Answer: _____

ITEM 02

The sentence "She found a typo in the top-left corner of the page" is grammatically correct.

Answer: _____

ITEM 03

When referring to a general direction, "North" should always be capitalized.

Answer: _____

ITEM 04

The phrase "southwesterly winds" is correctly written.

Answer: _____

ITEM 05

In the sentence "We sailed northwest", "northwest" should be hyphenated.

Answer: _____

**ITEM 06**

The sentence "The store is located in the South-East part of town" is correctly punctuated.

Answer: _____

ITEM 07

In the phrase "bottom-right corner", a hyphen is necessary.

Answer: _____

ITEM 08

The sentence "More rain falls in the south" is grammatically correct.

Answer: _____

ITEM 09

In the sentence "He's from Southeast Asia", "Southeast" should not be capitalized.

Answer: _____

ITEM 10

The phrase "north eastern region" is correctly written.

Answer: _____

ITEM 11

In the sentence "The wind is blowing from the North-East", the capitalization and hyphenation are correct.

Answer: _____

**ITEM 12**

The sentence "Place your signature at the bottom right of the form" is grammatically correct.

Answer: _____

ITEM 13

In the phrase "top of the page", "top" should be capitalized.

Answer: _____

ITEM 14

The sentence "We experienced strong South-Westerly winds" is correctly written.

Answer: _____

ITEM 15

In the phrase "The Northern Hemisphere", "Northern" should be capitalized.

Answer: _____

ITEM 16

The sentence "The ship sailed North-East" is correctly written.

Answer: _____

ITEM 17

In the phrase "top-right corner of the screen", the hyphen is unnecessary.

Answer: _____

**ITEM 18**

The sentence "The temperature in the South is usually higher" is grammatically correct.

Answer: _____

ITEM 19

In the phrase "northwestern region", "northwestern" should be two separate words.

Answer: _____

ITEM 20

The sentence "She lives in the Southern part of the city" is correctly capitalized.

Answer: _____

ITEM 21

In the phrase "bottom left drawer", hyphens are needed.

Answer: _____

ITEM 22

The sentence "The wind is blowing from the north-east" is correctly written.

Answer: _____

ITEM 23

In the phrase "Southeast Asian cuisine", "Southeast" should be capitalized.

Answer: _____

**ITEM 24**

The sentence "We're traveling south-west for our vacation" is grammatically correct.

Answer: _____



Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

ITEM 01

The vertical terms (north, south, top, bottom) come first in compound directions. For example, "northeast" is correct, not "eastnorth".

ITEM 02

This sentence correctly uses the compound direction "top-left" with a hyphen.

ITEM 03

General directions are not capitalized. Only when referring to specific named areas (e.g., "the North Pole") should directions be capitalized.

ITEM 04

"Southwesterly" is the correct adjectival form for winds coming from the southwest.

ITEM 05

Single compound directions like "northwest" are written as one word without a hyphen.

ITEM 06

General directions should not be capitalized or hyphenated. The correct form would be "southeast".

ITEM 07

Compound directions like "bottom-right" require a hyphen when used as an adjective before a noun.

ITEM 08

When referring to a general direction, "south" is not capitalized.

ITEM 09

When referring to a specific geographical region like Southeast Asia, the direction is capitalized.

ITEM 10

The correct form is "northeastern region" - compound directions are written as one word without a space.

ITEM 11

General directions should not be capitalized, and compound directions don't use hyphens when used as nouns. The correct form is "northeast".

ITEM 12

When used as a compound adjective before a noun, "bottom-right" should be hyphenated: "Place your signature at the bottom-right of the form".

**ITEM 13**

"Top" is not capitalized in this context as it's not a proper noun or part of a title.

ITEM 14

The correct form is "strong southwesterly winds" - no capitalization or hyphen is needed for the direction.

ITEM 15

When referring to a specific geographical region like the Northern Hemisphere, the direction is capitalized.

ITEM 16

The correct form is "The ship sailed northeast" - no capitalization or hyphen is needed for the direction.

ITEM 17

The hyphen is necessary in "top-right corner" as it's a compound adjective before a noun.

ITEM 18

When referring to a general direction, "south" should not be capitalized: "The temperature in the south is usually higher".

ITEM 19

Compound directions like "northwestern" are written as one word without a space or hyphen.

ITEM 20

When referring to a general direction within a city, "southern" should not be capitalized: "She lives in the southern part of the city".

ITEM 21

The correct form is "bottom-left drawer" as it's a compound adjective before a noun.

ITEM 22

The correct form is "The wind is blowing from the northeast" - no hyphen is needed for the direction when used as a noun.

ITEM 23

When referring to a specific geographical region like Southeast Asia, the direction is capitalized.

ITEM 24

The correct form is "We're traveling southwest for our vacation" - no hyphen is needed for the direction when used as an adverb.