

## Objective

To demonstrate how navigating in poor visibility is much easier when an estimate of both direction and distance is taken first.

## Prerequisites

Participants need to know how to take a bearing on a distant object and then walk on that bearing using the compass.

A compass is needed for each group of roughly 3 participants.

Two black bin liners are required for each group.

## Method

Ideally divide participants into groups of 3. Groups of 2 or 4 will do if overall numbers dictate.

Pick one member of each group and tell them you want them to walk to some chosen point – with a bag over their head. Identify an object in an open space maybe some 20-30 metres away. Something like a traffic cone, chair or rucksack will do nicely. Put the two bin-bags over their head, pulling them down to their waist. (Two bags are better than one as they are slightly transparent) They should be able to see their feet but not where they are going. Now turn them round 3 times (they didn't expect that) and let them try to find their target. Everyone usually finds the next bit quite entertaining.

After a while bring the wanderer back to the group. Select another member and give them a compass. Ask them to take a bearing on the chosen target. Again put both bags over their head and turn them round 3 times. They should be able to see their feet and the compass. This time they should(?) get the direction roughly right. They will march boldly off but you should see the point when they realise they don't have a handle on distance. They will usually slow down but unless they stumble into the target through good luck they will eventually start wandering about like the last person, albeit in the right quadrant this time.

Ask the third group member estimate how many paces they will take to reach the target. In practice it doesn't actually matter how accurate they are – they will still have a much better idea of distance than the previous person. Now as before, ask them to take a bearing, put the bags over their head and turn them round 3 times. This time they should get pretty close before they switch to some sort of searching mode. Hopefully they find the target.

## Notes

Young people tend to remember that their mother has always told them never to put a plastic bag over their head. Reassure them that the bottom will always remain wide open and warn that anyone fooling around while someone has the bag on will get severely jumped on.

All the participants do need to be able to take a bearing and walk on it. If the second or third person can't do that correctly the whole point is lost.