

DEVIATION OF THE COMPASS.

1. What do you mean by Deviation of the Compass?
An Error of the Compass, caused by the attraction of the iron in the Ship or cargo.
2. How do you determine the deviation (*a*) when in port, and (*b*) when at sea?
(*a*) By reciprocal bearings, or by the bearings of a distant object.
(*b*) By amplitude or Azimuth.
3. Having determined the deviation with the ship's head on the various points of the Compass, how do you know when it is Easterly, and when Westerly?
If the correct magnetic bearing is to the right of the Compass bearing, the deviation is Easterly, if to the left Westerly.
4. Why is it necessary, in order to ascertain the deviation to bring the ship's head in more than one direction?
Because the deviation varies, with every change in the direction of the ship's head.
5. For accuracy, what is the least number of points to which the ship's head should be brought?
Eight—The Cardinal and bi-cardinal points are the best.
6. How would you find the deviation when sailing along a well-known coast?
Bring two well known objects, such as light houses, in one; take the bearing and compare it with the bearings of the objects from each other, which will be found on the chart, or in the sailing directions, the difference will be the deviation.
- 7, 8, 9, and 10 are explained in the manual being a part of the figuring.
11. Name some suitable objects by which you could readily obtain the deviation of the Compass when sailing along the Coasts of the English Channel?
Lizards, South Foreland, or Portland lights.
12. Do you expect the deviation to change; if so, state under what circumstances?
Yes; on any considerable change of Latitude, on any change of cargo, and on an increase of heel.
13. How often is it desirable to test the accuracy of your table of Deviations?
At every opportunity.
14. State briefly what you have chiefly to guard against in selecting a position for the Compass?
It should be placed as far as possible from any mass of iron, and should not be near the extremity of any vertical iron, such as funnels, davits, spindle of capstan, &c.