‘SIX FIGURE MAP REFERENCES’ MADE EASY

Ordnance Survey Maps (O.S. Maps) are divided into squares. Each map has a code like SO or SP etc.

Each line of a square has either of two numbers, one on the horizontal line, or one on the vertical line.

Numbers which **INCREASE to the EAST** (the **VERTICLE** lines) are called ‘**EASTINGS’**

**EASTINGS are always read FIRST.**

Numbers which **INCREASE to the NORTH** (the **HORIZONTAL** lines) are called ‘**NORTHINGS’**

**NORTHINGS are always read SECOND.**

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**MAKING UP A MAP REFERENCE**

The SPOT is in the square bounded by:

**EASTINGS** 54 & 55

**NORTHINGS** 26 & 27

(Always take the lower figures)

The spot is therefore in MR 5426

This is not accurate enough.

Each square should be divided into **10 divisions**.

Calculate how many divisions into the square your spot is situated, **RIGHT & UP**.

The SPOT is: **3 divisions RIGHT** & **7 divisions UP**.

The 6 Figure Map reference is therefore: **54 and 3 divisions right** & **26 and 7 divisions up**.

**It is written simply:** MR 543267 (but give the OS Map Code too like SO or SP)

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**READING A MAP REFERENCE.**

Say you are given a Map Reference of SP 523248. First cut it in half: **523** & **248**

Then put in a decimal point before the last numbers: **52.3** & **24.8**

The position is, therefore, **52 & 3 divisions RIGHT** & **24 & 8 divisions UP** (X marks the spot!)

(A rhyme to remember the Eastings first & Northings second:

**ALONG the CORRIDOR then UP the STAIRS**)