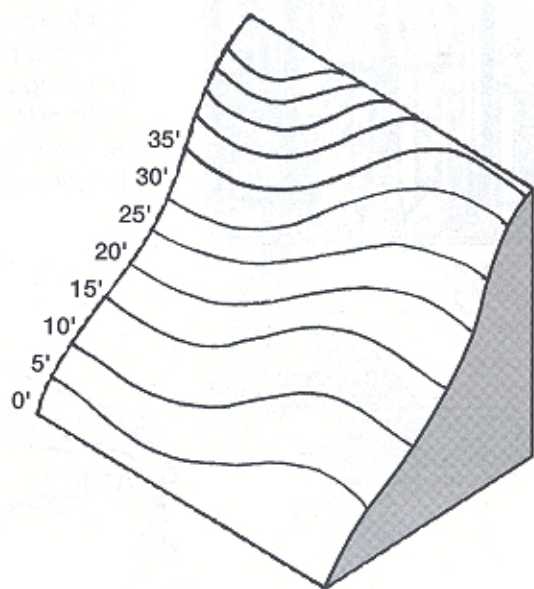


Contour lines are lines of constant elevation. Every point passes through the same elevation on the surface of the ground.

Contour intervals can be 1', 2', 5', or 10', depending on the conditions of the terrain and the size of the area being studied.

In the drawing on the left, note how the slope steepens when the contours become more closely spaced. It is less steep at the bottom since the spacing here is greater than at the top. Remember that contour lines should never cross one another.



Contour lines can be drawn accurately by using a french curve. The french curve is used for noncircular curves. When fitting the curve through a series of points, be sure that the direction in which its curvature increases is the direction in which the curvature of the line increases. Tangents at each conjunction should coincide to avoid breaks and to allow for a smooth continuity. At sharp turns, a combination of circle arcs and french curves may be used.

