

What is a GPS?

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a worldwide radio-navigation system formed from a constellation of 24 satellites and their ground stations. A GPS in a car is very helpful for the driver. It helps track down places where the driver needs to go.

How to Read a GPS

Latitude (*shown as a horizontal line - N*) is a point north or south of the Equator. Lines of latitude are often referred to as parallels.

Longitude (*shown as a vertical line - W*) is a point east or west of the Prime (*Greenwich*) Meridian. Lines of longitude are often referred to as meridians.

Minutes and Seconds Degrees of longitude and latitude have been divided into minutes (') and seconds ("). There are 60 minutes in each degree. Each minute is divided into 60 seconds. Seconds can be further divided into tenths, hundredths, or even thousandths.

EXAMPLE: ETV's main office in Columbia, SC, USA, is located at 33 degrees, 58 minutes, and 30 seconds north of the equator ($33^{\circ} 58'30''$ N), and 81 degrees, 01 minutes and 07 seconds west of the Prime Meridian ($81^{\circ} 01'07''$ W).