We take all angles from the positive x-axis so that our two component formulas ($Vx = V\cos\theta$; $Vy = V\sin\theta$) will work for ALL vectors. Otherwise you would have to think about how to calculate each vector's components (which leads to mistakes).

On the compass, notice that degrees increase positively when moving counter-clockwise (CCW) and increase negatively when moving clockwise (CW). Notice that 310° and -50° are the same angle. It doesn't matter whether you use positive or negative angles as long as your reference point is the positive x-axis.

Look at the angles on the compass and figure out which angles to use to find the components. (Answers are below.)



Instead of 40° : use $180 + 40 = 220^{\circ}$ Instead of 10° : use -100 or 260° Instead of 15° : use 90 - 15 or 75° 45° is fine, as is.