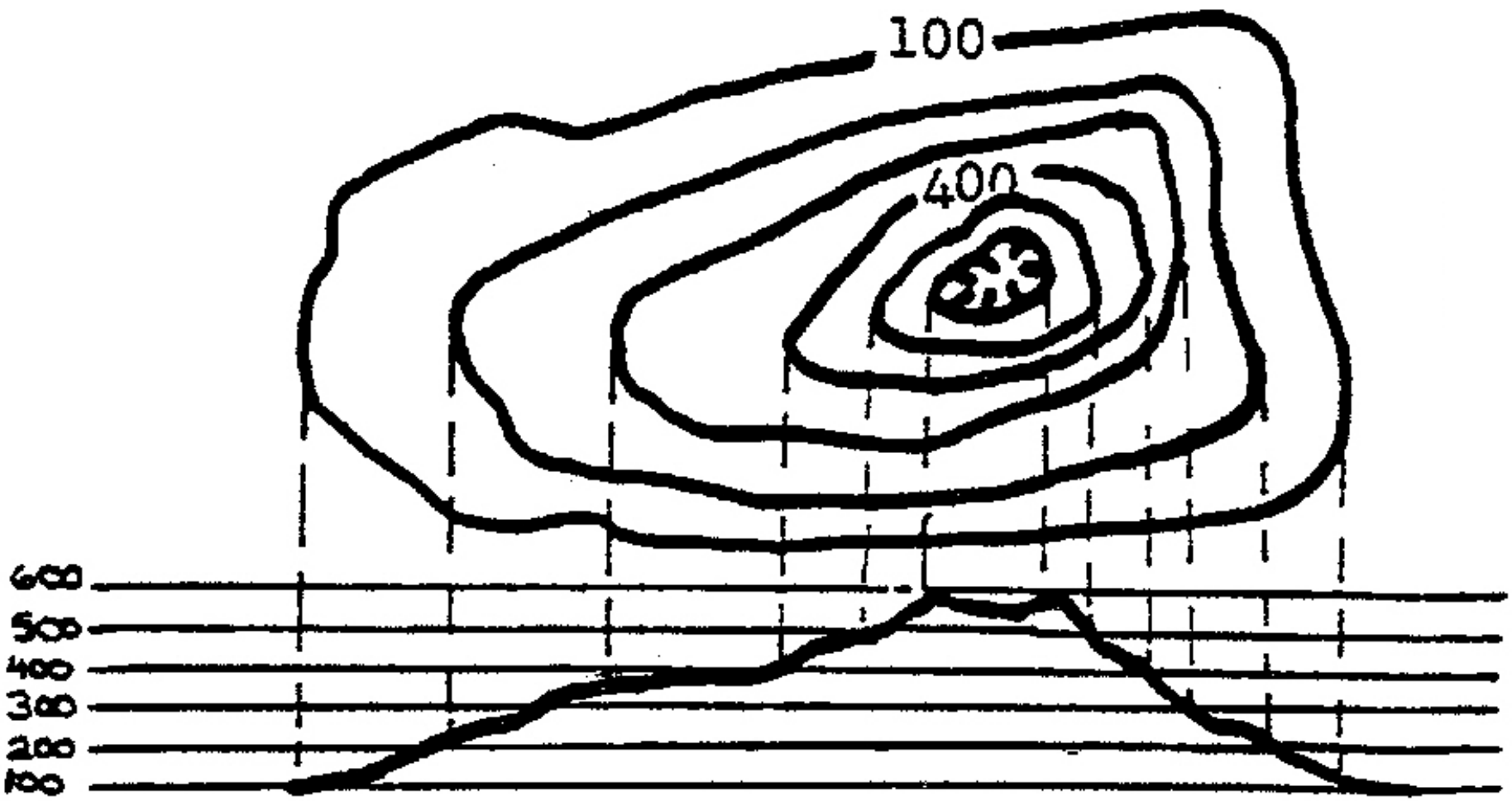
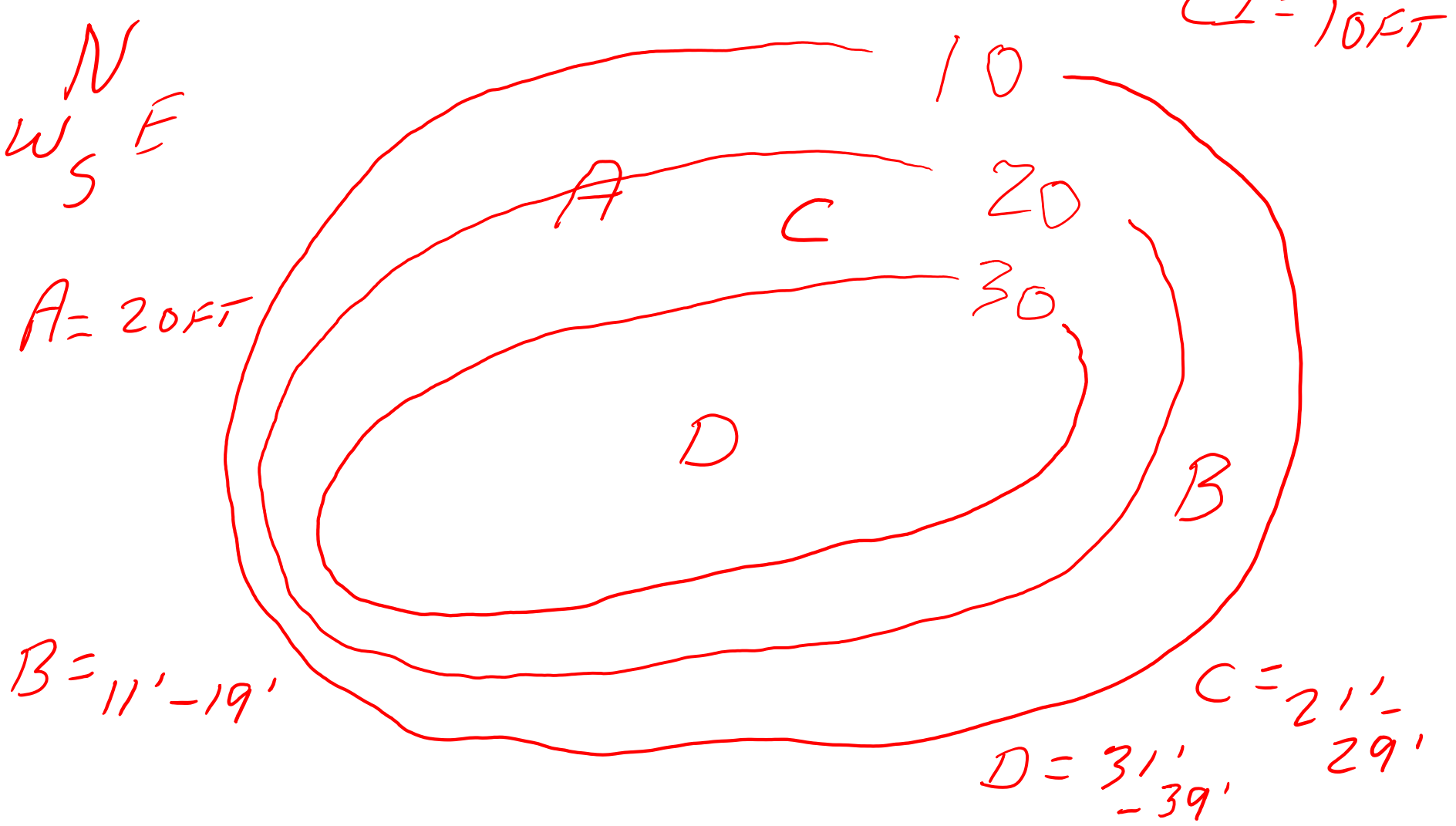
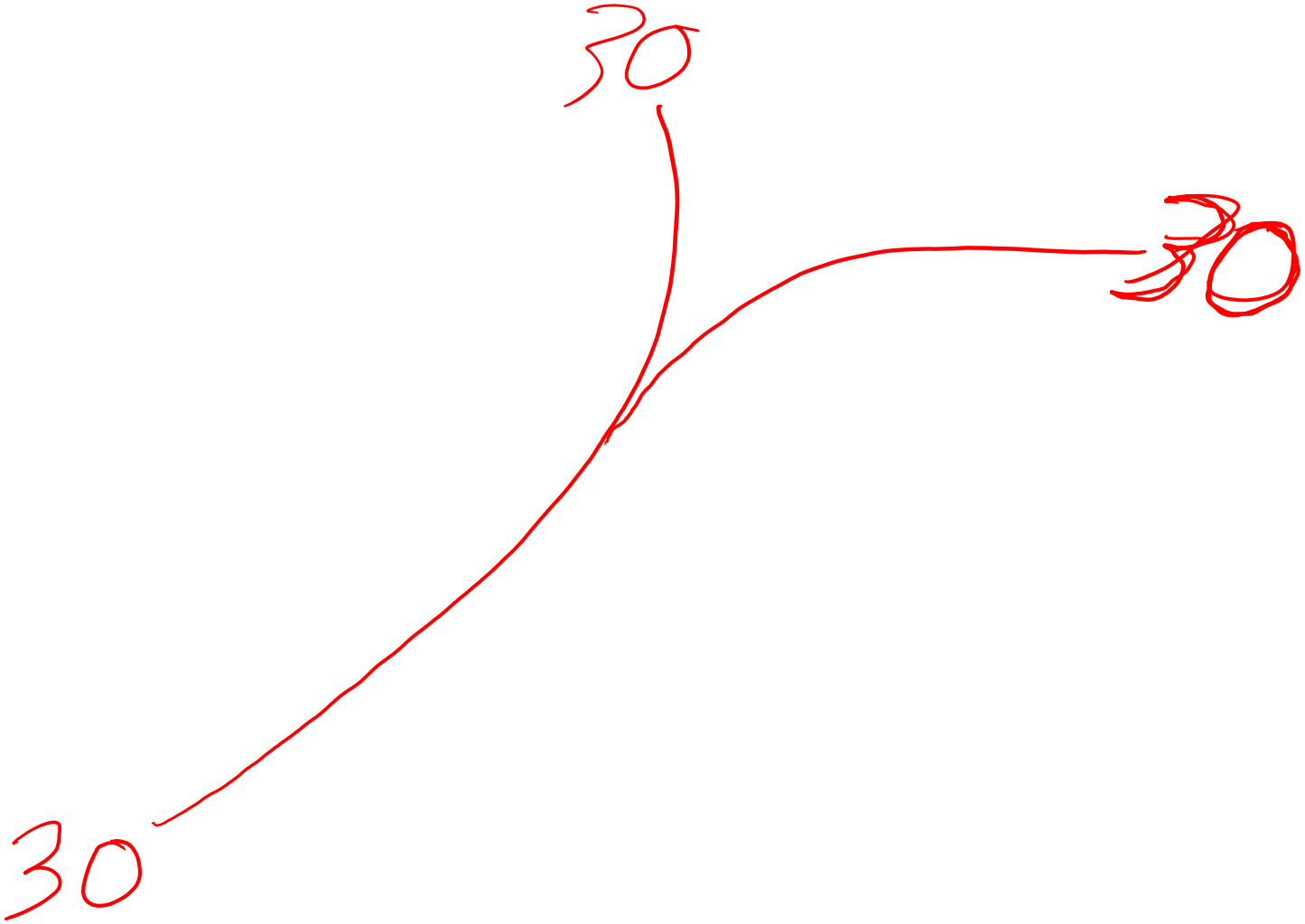
General Rules for contour lines


100
400
600
500
400
300
200
100

A contour line connects points of equal elevation.

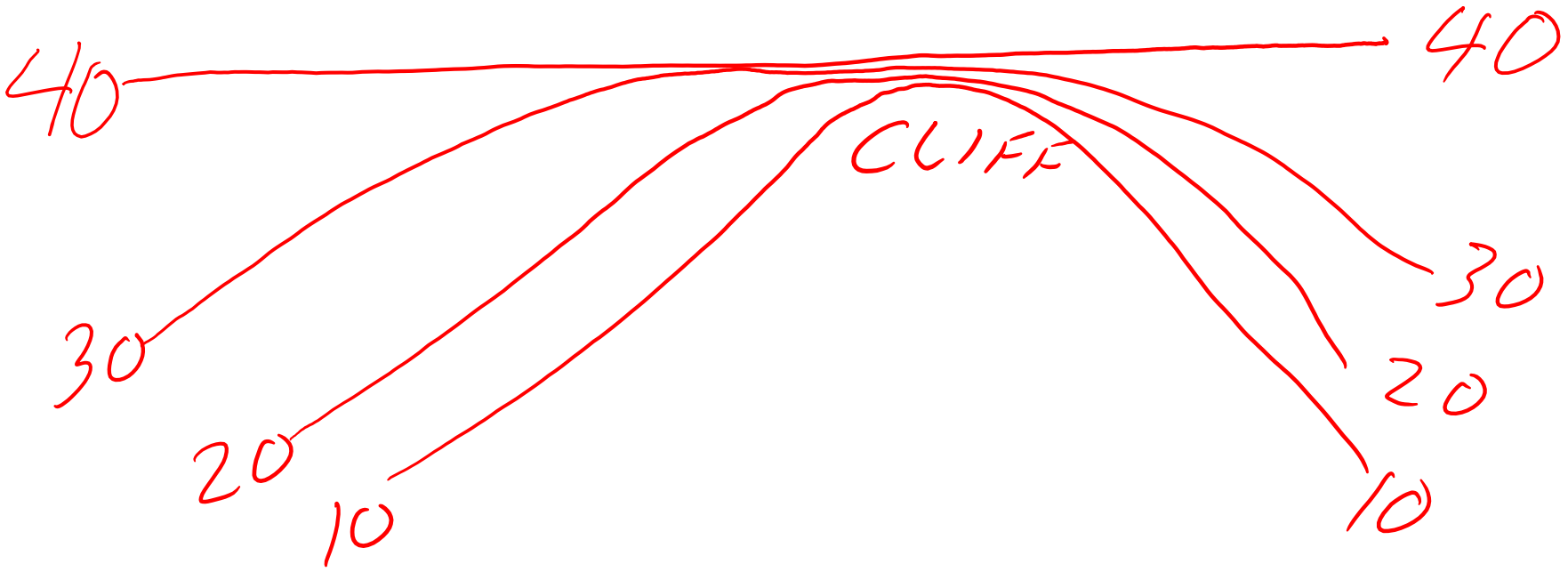


A contour line never branches or splits

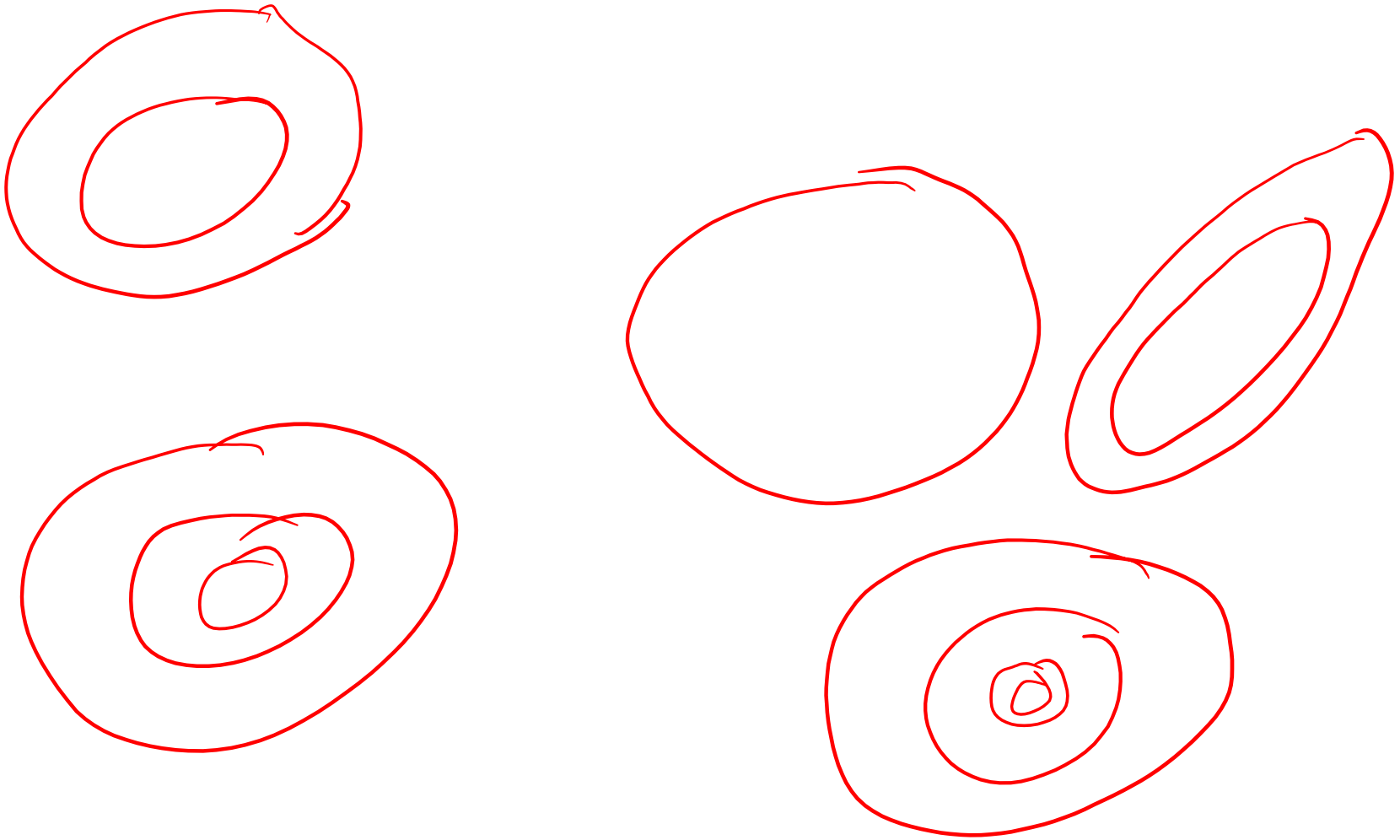


Steep slopes are shown by closely spaced contour lines.

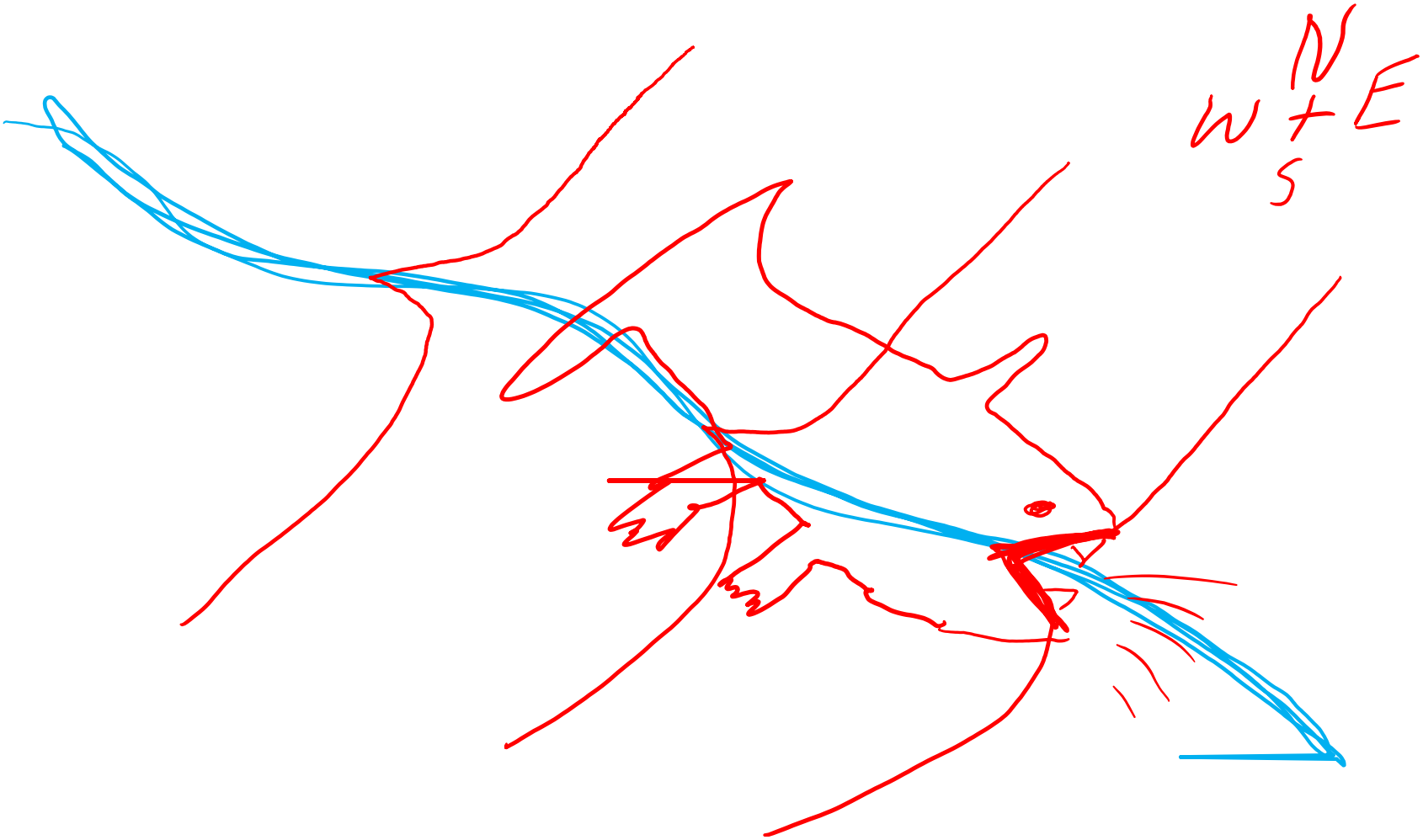
Contour lines never cross, but they may touch.



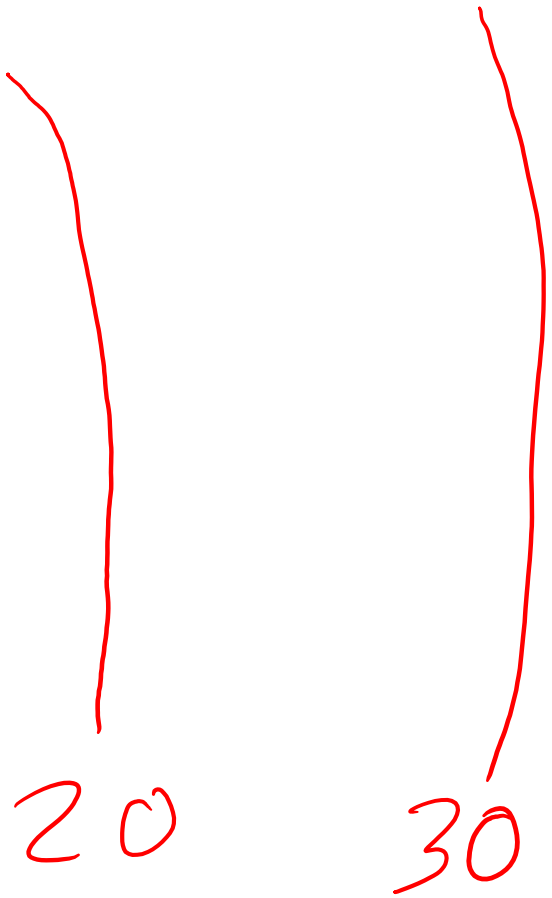
Hills are represented by a concentric series of closed contour lines.



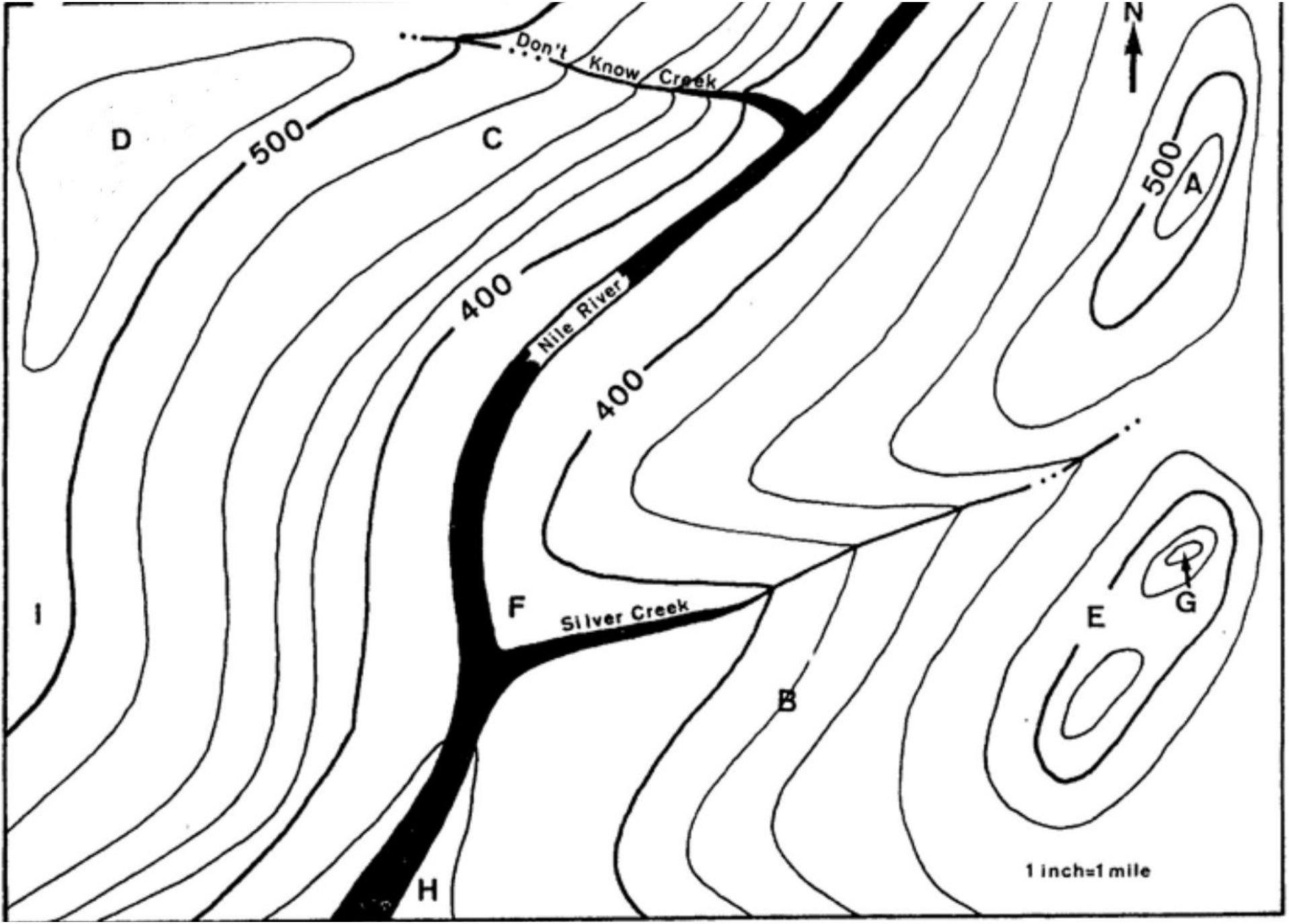
Contour lines form a “V” pattern when crossing streams. The apex of the “V” always points upstream.



Contour interval (C.I.) is the vertical difference in elevation between adjacent contour lines.



CI =
10FT



N
Don't Know Creek
D
500
C
500
A
400
Nile River
400
I
F
Silver Creek
E
G
B
H
1 inch=1 mile