

## Dichotomous Keys

-a key or chart that involves deciding about 2 characteristics at a time in order to properly classify organisms

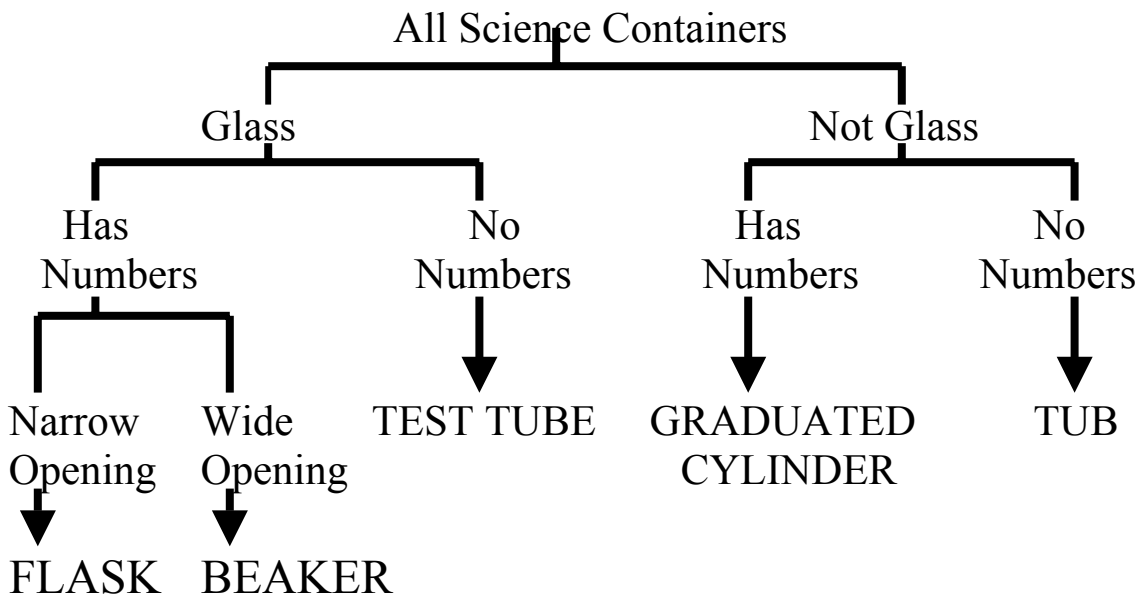
-the key uses a series of “go to” instructions until the proper identification is reached

To make a dichotomous key:

- A. Make a branch chart
- B. Use the chart to make a key

### Preparing Dichotomous Keys

#### A. Branch Chart



- B. Key
- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. a) glass          | Go to 2            |
| b) not glass         | Go to 3            |
| 2. a) has numbers    | Go to 4            |
| b) no numbers        | TEST TUBE          |
| 3. a) has numbers    | GRADUATED CYLINDER |
| b) no numbers        | TUB                |
| 4. a) narrow opening | FLASK              |
| b) wide opening      | BEAKERS            |