



Classification

One of the tools biologists use to identify a plant or animal is the dichotomous key. These keys give the identifier a choice of (usually) two options such as "animal has 6 legs or animal has 8 legs" or "is it bigger than a bread box or smaller than a bread box?" By answering a series of questions in a key written by specialists, biologists can identify an organism they are not familiar with.

Taxonomic Key for Clothes

Pretend you are from the planet *Gazornenplat* and have arrived on Earth as part of a team to study humans. One member of your team has studied human clothing and has written a key to identify the pieces of clothing that you see people wearing. You need to write a report on the clothes you have seen. Use the key to find out what they are called.

Pick an article of clothing from the pictures below. Starting at the first choice, choose one of the options (1a or 1b) that best describes the piece of clothing you chose. Then go to the number beside that choice and do the same until you come to a name. If you have answered all the questions correctly you should arrive at the right name for your article of clothing. Since you are from a far away planet they may have to look at some of the humans in the room to answer the questions.

ASK THE "EXPERT" - The Giant Pacific Octopus



1(a) These are worn on your feet

1(b) Not worn on your feet.

go to 2

go to 3

2(a) Soft and flexible worn next to your skin

2(b) With a hard bottom, outer footwear

socks

shoes

3(a) Worn on the head

3(b) Not worn on the head

hat

go to 4

4(a) worn on the lower part of the body covers all or part of the legs

4(b) worn on upper part of the body

go to 5

go to 6

5(a) covers all of the legs

5(b) covers only upper part of the leg

pants

shorts

6(a) short or long sleeves, usually light material worn close to skin

6(b) made of heavy material, worn over shirts

shirt

go to 7

7(a) long sleeves

7(b) sleeves short or absent

coat

vest