Tree Leaf Terminology
Deciduous Tree id
Branching pattern

**detectable only when you are standing in front of the tree**

Alternate (most common)  Opposite (diagnostic)

one leaf per node  two leaves per node
Whorled branching - really unusual

Northern Catalpa
3 branches off each node
Alternate branching

This usually applies to branch-branching as well as leaf branching
The most common alternate-branching deciduous trees around here ...

What are they? hint: they’re all the same genus.

Bur  White  Swamp White
Black  Northern Pin  Red
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MADog: Opposite branching

Maple
Ash
Dogwood
opposite branching

with U-shaped sinuses

with V-shaped sinuses

What are they?
another *alternate* branching - not a Maple

guesses?
another one with opposite branching

What was that mnemonic?
Basic leaf structure

**Simple:**
blade is solid

**Compound:** blade of leaf is composed of many leaflets
alternate and simple

guesses?

These are very common and right out by the BHS main entrance!
The leaf edge (of simple leaves)

**Entire:**
o no breaks in the edge

**Lobed:** edge is broken with sinuses

Where else do you have lobes?
alternate branching
Alternate, simple, and lobed, oh, and each lobe ends in a bristle
Alternate, simple, and lobed. This one, too, each lobe ends in a bristle, but the sinuses aren’t as deep.
Ah, this one has rounded lobes! (p.s. like a snowball)

What’s the color of a fresh snowball?

What’s the name of this tree?
Vein patterns

Pinnate (most)

like the vanes of a feather.

Palmate

Parallel ... super uncommon among trees
If I tell you this was from a tree that had alternate branching, and this is a single leaf, What else could you say about the leaf that might help you id this tree?
Beech

Alternate branching, simple leaves that are entire, with pinnate veins, each vein ending in a single tooth.
Leaf Margin

Toothed (most trees)

Smooth

Wavy, double-toothed ... next slide
Oh, that I could ever bear, green, entire, and wavy ... that’s a ______
opposite branching

What’s this?
If I tell you this was from a tree that had alternate branching, and this is a single leaf, what else could you notice that might help you identify this tree?
Dendrology: a skill you can learn
Trees:
To know them is to know where you stand