There are 12 major keys.  C  F  Bb  Eb  Ab  Db  Gb  B  E  A  D  G

**Step 1**  *Is it a sharp key or a flat key?*

- The key of C has no sharps or flats
- All flat keys have flat next to their name besides F

Example. Key of A is a sharp key because it is not F and it doesn’t have a flat next to it’s name

**Step 2**  *How many sharps or flats are in a key?*

Use the following mnemonic devices to figure out how many sharps or flats are in a key. Count how many words you say before you get the word the starts with the letter of the key.

How many sharps are in a key?  **Good Dogs Always Eat Boneless Fried Chicken**

How many flats are in a key?  **For Better Earth Always Drive Green Cars**

Example. A is a sharp key, so you use the ones about Fried Chicken.
Good (1) Dogs (2) **Always** (3) The key of A has three sharps.
**Step 3** Which notes are sharped or flatted?

To figure out which notes are sharped or flatted, use the following mnemonic device.

B E A D G C F

-Read it from left to right to see which notes are flat and from right to left to see which notes are sharp.

Example. The key of A has three sharps. Go from right left to figure out which notes are sharped in the key. F, C, and G are sharped in the key of A

**Step 4** Spell the scale without sharps or flats

The musical alphabet restarts after G

A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

Start on the first note of the scale and go through the musical alphabet until you arrive back at the starting note

Example: Key of A: A B C D E F G A

**Step 5** Add sharps or flats to the scale

Example:
F, C, and G are sharped in the key of A
A B C# D E F# G# A