

## Using a Graduated Cylinder

Place the graduated cylinder on a flat surface and view the height of the liquid in the cylinder with your eyes directly opposite the top of the liquid surface. The liquid (if water or a solution containing water) will tend to curve downward. This curve is called the *meniscus*. Always read the bottom of the meniscus. Read the graduated cylinder to the appropriate number of significant digits. For example, if the cylinder has heavy or extended markings at 10, 20, 30 . . . , there are most likely smaller divisions or short fine lines at every milliliter mark. The graduated cylinder can then be read to the tenth of a milliliter, such as 31.5 mL or 30.0 mL.

