

Examining the eye

- An ophthalmologist is a doctor who specialises in treating eyes. An optometrist or ophthalmic optician is qualified to perform eye examinations and prescribe glasses. An orthoptist monitors children's sight and assesses squints.
- To test your sight you will be asked to read a vision chart at distance. Each eye is checked separately. You may view the chart through a pinhole which is like wearing glasses.
- A slit lamp may be used to light up and magnify your eye so that it can be examined accurately. Your chin will be put on a moulded chin rest and your forehead pressed against a band to make sure that your eyes are in exactly the right position. Sometimes there are handles for you to hold.
- You may need eye drops to widen your pupils and make examining the back of the eye easier. The drops will sting for a few seconds. They take 10 minutes to work but their effect may last for several hours. Close things will look blurred and your eyes may be sensitive to light. This will improve gradually but wearing dark glasses may help. Never drive when your pupils are large.
- The retina at the back of the eye is examined by shining a light into your eye. This may make your vision blurred and cause everything to look red for a few minutes immediately afterwards.



Vision chart

