

The Eye

Body & health

How light becomes an image, part by part.

Light's path from the outside world to the optic nerve.

1

Cornea

The clear front. It does most of the focusing — about two-thirds of it.

2

Pupil and iris

The iris opens and closes the pupil to control how much light enters.

3

Lens

Fine-tunes focus by changing shape. Stiffens with age, which is why reading glasses arrive.

4

Retina

Rods for low light and motion; cones for colour and detail.

5

Optic nerve

Carries the signal to the visual cortex. Its exit point is the blind spot.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Myopia — the image focuses in front of the retina

Hyperopia — behind it

Astigmatism — an uneven cornea

Presbyopia — the lens stiffening with age

The image on the retina is upside down and back to front. The brain corrects it, permanently and invisibly.