

Words About Your Eyes

Glossary



Conjunctiva: The thin, moist tissue that lines the inner surfaces of the eyelids to help protect the eye and keep it from drying out.

Cornea: The front surface of the eye. It covers the iris, pupil, and anterior chamber and is responsible for 70% of the total focusing ability.

Iris: Behind the cornea is the iris, which contains the pupil. By controlling the amount of light entering the eye, the iris adjusts the size of the pupil.

Lens: Behind the pupil is the lens of the eye. The lens focuses light on the retina, which sends messages through the optic nerve to the brain.

Optic Nerve: Is made up of over a million nerve fibers that transport visual messages from the retina to your brain.

Ophthalmologists: Are physicians who diagnose diseases and disorders of the vision system. Treatment may include corrective lenses, medication and surgery.

Opticians: Are technicians qualified to fit and supply glasses and contact lenses.

Optometrists: Have a doctor of optometry degree and are the primary providers of eye health and vision care. Optometrists are members of a regulated health profession qualified to provide comprehensive eye exams, diagnose and treat diseases of the eye, and provide prescribe and dispense eyeglasses and other visual aids.

Pupil: The pupil is contained within the iris. It gets larger or smaller depending on how much light is available. It controls how much light enters the eye by opening up in the darkness and closing in the light. The pupil is actually a hole!

Retina: Located at the back of the eye, the retina receives images from the cornea and the lens and then sends those messages back to the brain.