

The Snellen Chart



The Snellen chart tests **Distance Visual Acuity** (Distance Vision) and one of the tests undertaken to assess eyesight.

A chart is used made up of capital letters, numbers, symbols or pictures, which are larger at the top and smaller at the bottom, of the chart.

Distance visual acuity is normally measured at 6 metres and so the chart is often viewed through a mirror.



NORMALLY READ AT:

60 METRES

36 METRES

18 METRES

12 METRES

9 METRES

6 METRES

5 METRES

4 METRES

The top line of the chart is usually a size that could be read from a distance of 60 metres, by an individual with normal distance vision. The second line is of a size, which could normally be read from 36 metres away, and so on.

The result of the test is written, like a fraction.

6/18 means that the third line down can be read from 6 metres away.

6/6 or 6/5 is considered to be normal distance vision.

If no lines can be read from 6 metres, then shorter distances are tried. For example, 3/36 means the second line down can be read from 3 metres away, 2/60 means that the top line can be read from 2 metres away

Disclaimer: Information sheets have been produced to provide information and advice for the parents of visually impaired children. Changes may occur in theories and legislation, however, the information sheets have been written in good faith, as a general guidance tool. If you have any questions with regard to issues raised by the information sheet, please contact the National Blind Children's Society, National Family Support and