

Eye Doctor Lingo

Common terms eye doctors use to describe vision:

Abbreviations

VA: visual acuity—sharpness or clarity of vision

VF: visual field—the total area seen without moving the head from side to side

OS: left eye

OD: right eye

OU: both eyes

CF: counts fingers

HM: hand motion

LP: light perception

NLP: no light perception

Vision

low vision: reduced vision that cannot be corrected with regular glasses, contact lenses, medication, or surgery. It's sometimes defined as having visual acuity between 20/70 and 20/200 with best correction (meaning with regular glasses or contact lenses).

functional vision: vision useful for everyday tasks. One can have low vision or be legally blind and have functional vision.

legal blindness: visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better-seeing eye with best correction, OR a visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better-seeing eye