



Prescribed Prism

Patients get their best vision if their two eyes work together as a team. "Working as a team" means both eyes look directly at the same object, so that the brain receives only one "picture" message as to what the patient is looking at.

Trouble arises when both eyes do not look directly at the same object. Now the brain receives two messages: one eye is concentrating on object A, while the other eye is looking beside object A at object B--what is reality? This can be so confusing to the brain that either the patient sees double, or at least not clearly, or the brain starts to suppress the signal received from one of the eyes so that only one "picture" is seen.

To counter this, your doctor may prescribe prism for your lenses. The purpose of this prism is to pull your two eyes into mutual alignment so that they work together as a team. Once both eyes are pulled into both looking at the same object, the brain receives only one picture.

Since prism is prescribed to pull your eyes into alignment, getting used to prism for the first time, or getting used to a change in the amount of prism you are wearing, means you will probably experience a pulling sensation in your eyes for some time, perhaps a few days. After a few days, your eyes are in better alignment, the pulling sensation leaves, and normal comfort returns. Some people do experience headaches as they adjust to the prism. Then after you adjust to the prism and are comfortable wearing your glasses, you may experience a pulling sensation if you try to go without your glasses, since now the eyes are trying to be pulled back to where they were before the prism was added.

At Empire Optical we are glad to answer any questions you may have about prism.



A prism is any piece of glass or plastic that has two sides that are not parallel: one end (the base) is thicker than the other end (the apex). Consequently, when prism is ground into your lenses, they will be thicker than they would be without the prism.