

## Special Education Vocabulary in Use

2. In most cases eye *floaters/flyers* are not a reason for concern. Almost everyone has them by age 70 due to degenerative changes of the vitreous humour.
3. Eye *sore/strain* often means that your eyes are simply tired, but it may be a major sign of astigmatism or myopia. In my case it's definitely fatigue after doing a close-up activity, such as reading, for too long.
4. Clarice complained of severe *optic/ocular* pain and seeing *aureoles/haloes* around lights. On examination, an ophthalmologist detected that she had advanced glaucoma and told her that without immediate treatment she would go blind.
5. Mark is 5 years old now and has been wearing glasses and patching since he was 4. Other children think that he is wearing an eye patch for fun, but he is doing so because he is *wall/glassy-eyed*.
6. Julia is worried that her 1-year-old son, Josh, has persistent *wet/watery* eyes. Josh has recently been seen by a paediatrician who has referred him to an ophthalmologist to rule out any serious condition.

### Exercise 11



Complete the text with the words in the box.

long cane, screen readers, guide dog, magnifiers, binoculars, monoculars × 2, human guide, reading stands, contact lenses

1. Individuals with vision loss need to choose the right device for their specific needs. Because there is no such thing as an all-purpose device and different devices offer different features depending on the nature of visual impairment and circumstances, it's not unusual for a low vision person to have a few low vision aids around the house. People with visual impairments need help other than ordinary glasses or \_\_\_\_\_ (1) to be able to read the fine print or do needlework. Handheld \_\_\_\_\_ (2) are optical aids that are particularly well-suited for close-up activities.

### UNIT 3. LOW VISION AND BLINDNESS

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (3) and \_\_\_\_\_ (4) are another optical aids available on the market to assist people with visual impairments. They are a sort of mini telescopes used for seeing objects at a distance. The only difference between them is that \_\_\_\_\_ (5) allow you to use one eye only to view distant things.
3. Although at the other end of technological spectrum, non-optical aids can also improve visual function. Many of these devices are easily affordable and include \_\_\_\_\_ (6) or large print reading materials. Adequate lighting can also improve reading ability and allow low vision people to make the most of their sight.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (7) is a primary mobility aid/tool that allows its users to check the walking surface for any obstacles (such as kerbs or fences) a step or two ahead and as result to walk at a quicker pace. A \_\_\_\_\_ (8) also allows blind and low vision people to travel safely, but unlike other mobility aids, it interacts more with the environment and provides a sense of security and companionship. At any given time people with visual impairments can also travel with a \_\_\_\_\_ (9), a friend or a family member, especially outside their familiar environment.
5. Thanks to advances in technology, people with vision loss, in spite of continuing inequalities, have never had it so good. They can use computers, read books and enter a wide range of careers just like sighted people. With the advent of adaptive technology, such as \_\_\_\_\_ (10), braille embossers and speech synthesisers, blind and low vision people have gained immediate access to print materials in tactile (Braille), audio and enlarged text formats.

## Exercise 12

Read the text and choose the answer (a, b, c or d) which you think fits best.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIELD

In 1784 Valentin Haüy, influenced by the Abbé Charles-Michel de L'Épée who opened the first public school for the deaf in 1760, opened the first special school for blind students in the world, the Institution for Blind Children (Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles), where he developed a \_\_\_\_\_ (1) system of raised letters on paper. Thanks to the new system, blind readers would run their fingers over the letters, reading the text in a rather traditional, though slow-paced, way. Haüy's system was improved by Louis Braille, one of \_\_\_\_\_ (2) students at this school, who devised a simpler and more effective system based on a cell of six raised dots, which in a modified form is still used today.

The success of the institute in Paris led to the opening of other schools for the blind in Europe and the United States. 1900 saw a first attempt at integrating blind students into local public schools. Through the efforts of Frank Hall, the superintendent for the Illinois School for the Blind, students with visual impairments, instead of being institutionalised, were admitted into designated local schools in Chicago. Blind students attended regular classes, assisted by a special education teacher who modified the lessons to \_\_\_\_\_ (3) these students' needs. In 1913 Edward E. Allen started in Boston the first US class for \_\_\_\_\_ (4) sighted students, which was modelled on the Myope School in London, the world's first class for \_\_\_\_\_ (5) vision children. These classes were called 'sight saving classes' because it was believed at the time that using \_\_\_\_\_ (6) vision would result in losing it. As a result, most of the schoolwork was oral, with very little reading and writing. This method held well into late 1960s, when Dr Natalie C. Barraga's study on visual \_\_\_\_\_ (7) proved that remaining vision, if not used, could only be further limited. Her findings challenged the concept of 'sight saving classes' and influenced the way students with visual impairments are taught.

### UNIT 3. LOW VISION AND BLINDNESS

With this change of direction in special education, came advances in medicine, medical care and \_\_\_\_\_ (8) technology that have significantly improved the quality of life of people with visual impairments.

1. a) sensory                      b) touch                      c) tactile
2. a) sightless                    b) unseeable                c) unsighted
3. a) accommodate            b) adapt                      c) assimilate
4. a) poorly                        b) partially                  c) half
5. a) bad                            b) near                        c) low
6. a) tunnel                        b) residual                  c) side
7. a) processing                b) acuity                      c) efficiency
8. a) assistive                    b) relief                        c) support

## REVISE AND CHECK

### Exercise 1

Match the adjectives in column A to their antonyms in column B.

- | A               | B                |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. myopic       | a) distance      |
| 2. blind        | b) sharp         |
| 3. mild         | c) sighted       |
| 4. cloudy       | d) short-sighted |
| 5. adventitious | e) profound      |
| 6. close-up     | f) tunnel        |
| 7. hyperopic    | g) far-sighted   |
| 8. peripheral   | h) congenital    |

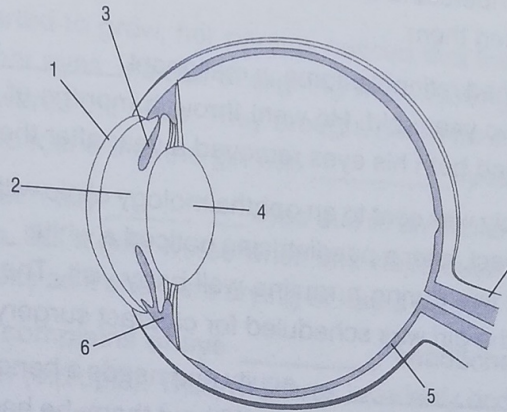
## Exercise 2

Complete the following sentences with the adjectives from exercise 1. More than one answer is possible.

1. Sylvia has a \_\_\_\_\_ vision loss and has never enjoyed a single second of sight. Despite her impairment, she can conduct everyday life activities confidently thanks to her excellent hearing and other sharpened senses.
2. Nicholas is \_\_\_\_\_. His distance vision is so bad that without his glasses he can't recognise his parents' faces ten feet away. He can't read street signs either until he's right under them.
3. Stephen is \_\_\_\_\_, which means that if something is too close, he can't see it. So, unless he wears his glasses he can't read or do computer work.
4. Now that my aunt is up in years, her vision has become \_\_\_\_\_ to such a point that sewing and doing crafts are exhausting.
5. Philip's vision loss is so \_\_\_\_\_ that it can't be corrected with glasses or contact lenses. He needs an electronic magnifier to see well enough to do his homework.
6. Braille allows me to read at any time of the day, at any place. Unlike my \_\_\_\_\_ siblings I can read in bed under the covers when the lights are out.
7. Although I can watch TV with no problems, my \_\_\_\_\_ vision is much worse than it used to be. I can't really read a book without my glasses on.
8. Good \_\_\_\_\_ vision is crucial to safe driving because it allows you to detect side objects and movements while looking straight ahead.

### Exercise 3

a) Write the names of the parts of the eye.



b) Match the names of the parts of the eye in column A to their functions in column B.

A	B
1. lens	a) eye's outermost layer that light rays enter through
2. retina	b) transmits neural signals to the brain
3. ciliary muscle	c) converts visual images into neural signals
4. optic nerve	d) allows different amounts of light into the eye
5. pupil	e) opening that allows light to enter the eye
6. cornea	f) brings an object into focus
7. iris	g) controls the shape of the lens

### Exercise 4

Complete the sentences below with the adjectives in the box.

visual, pupillary, optic, refractive, corneal, blurry, retinal, ocular

## Special Education Vocabulary in Use

1. 15-year-old Colin, who was congenitally blind, gained his sight from \_\_\_\_\_ grafts to both eyes. Even though he acquired vision, he wasn't able to understand the objects he wasn't familiar with when blind, unless he touched them.
2. Anthony developed retinoblastoma, a malignant \_\_\_\_\_ tumour, when he was two years old. He went through months of chemotherapy, but eventually had both his eyes removed a year after the diagnosis.
3. 3-month-old Alicia was sent to an ophthalmology clinic with a suspicion of congenital cataract, after a paediatrician noticed a white \_\_\_\_\_ reflex in her left eye during a routine well-baby visit. The diagnosis was confirmed and the girl was scheduled for cataract surgery.
4. Michael has low \_\_\_\_\_ acuity and needs a hand-held magnifier or large print materials to read easily. Without them, he has to hold things just a few inches from his face and sit very close to the TV or computer.
5. When he began to experience severe \_\_\_\_\_ pain and nausea, Mr Thompson, a 35-year-old patient, rushed to his family physician to get a referral to an ophthalmologist. The ophthalmologist saw him the next day and diagnosed him with glaucoma. Mr Thompson was surprised as he thought that it was a disease that only elderly people get.
6. Robert failed his eye test required to renew his driving licence. He knew it was coming because his vision had been \_\_\_\_\_ for the past several weeks.
7. Victor underwent surgery after sustaining a life-threatening head injury while skiing without a helmet. The surgery went well in that he survived it, but his \_\_\_\_\_ nerve was damaged and he lost his vision.
8. 3-year-old Celia was born with a \_\_\_\_\_ error due to an irregular shape of her corneas. Now she has to wear glasses to correct her vision, but she hates them and takes them off whenever her parents are out of sight.

**Exercise 5**

Complete the sentences with correct words.

1. As Laura started to grow, her parents noticed that there was something wrong with her eyes. Instead of aligning when looking at an object, they looked in towards the nose. They brought her to be examined by a paediatrician who found that the girl was \_\_\_\_\_-eyed.
2. Jenny has got really \_\_\_\_\_ eyes due to an ocular infection. She has it all the time, but it gets worse when she steps outside on a windy day. Then she looks as if she were crying or had a cold.
3. Mitch often complains of eye \_\_\_\_\_, headaches and occasional double vision (diplopia). The symptoms invariably occur after he spends too much time at the computer or game console. He has recently seen an ophthalmologist who told him that his problems result from focusing on close-up objects for too long.
4. 6-year-old Thomas has a \_\_\_\_\_ eye, which was detected over a year ago. A paediatric ophthalmologist advised patching the healthy eye so the weaker one gets stronger and sees better. Although Thomas knows he might go blind in the affected eye, he hates to wear patches and does it very irregularly.