



Using the Hanks Near-Point Eye Charts

Document: 00102 Last edited: 25/7/14
 Author: Anthony Hanks, OD

The *Hanks Near-Point Eye Charts* are useful for measuring visual acuity and visual function at a variety of common near tasks.

SETUP

For measuring visual acuity, the *Near-Point Eye Charts* should be held at a distance of 40 centimetres (16 inches) from the subject's eyes.

For assessing visual performance at different tasks, the *Near-Point Eye Charts* should be held at the habitual distance for the particular task. For example, music would typically be viewed from a distance of 60 centimetres (depending on the instrument). Or a computer screen is typically 50 centimetres from the eyes of a subject.

VISUAL ACUITY

Simply record the size of the smallest text that the subject is able to read without errors.

“NORMAL” VISION

Normal vision at 40 cm is the text below the *green highlight line*. This has the notation *N6*, *40/40*, *J3* or *6Pt*.

SNELLEN NOTATION

The Snellen notation on the *Hanks Near-Point Eye Charts* is in the equivalent 20/20 format, but it is stated for the typical testing distance of 40 cms. (Thus the first number is “40” to indicate the testing distance). This can be easily converted to the metric 6/6 format by selecting the same fractional relationship:

SNELLEN CONVERSION	40'	200	1100	170	150	140	130	125
	20'	100	50	25	25	20	15	12.5
	6'	30	15	10.5	7.5	6	4.5	4

When visual acuity is recorded, the distance at which the measurement was taken should also be recorded.



For example, if the measurement was taken at 40 cms the result could be recorded as . . .

40/40 -or-
20/20 at 40 cms

HIGHLIGHT LINES

For ease of use when directing a subject, the most common near-point test materials are highlighted by coloured lines - red, green and orange. For example: “Please try reading the text below the green line?”.

N6 40/40 J3 1.00 6PT

It is not unusual for some patients to experience a slight difficulty adapting to a new prescription. This is especially true if a power change has been overdue. It will be easiest to adapt to a new prescription in familiar surroundings and a shorter period will be required if you avoid alternating between old and new pairs.