

# AI-03597 Snellen Eye Chart

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Tags	MD
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In the Snellen Eye Chart, explain the 20/70 1 numbers up to the 7/20 9

**The Snellen Eye Chart measures visual acuity, with fractions like 20/70 or 7/20 showing how well someone sees compared to "normal" vision. The top number (numerator) is the testing distance—usually 20 feet—while the bottom number (denominator) indicates the distance at which a person with standard vision could read the same line. Larger denominators (like 70) mean poorer vision; smaller denominators (like 20) mean sharper vision.**



## How the Numbers Work

- **20/70 vision:** You can read at 20 feet what a person with normal vision can read at 70 feet.
  - This indicates **moderate visual impairment**.
- **20/20 vision:** Standard "normal" vision. You can read at 20 feet what a person with normal vision reads at 20 feet.
- **7/20 vision:** Less common notation, but it means you can read at **7 feet** what a person with normal vision can read at 20 feet.
  - This is **significantly worse than 20/70**, since you need to be much closer to see the same detail.



## Progression of Lines on the Snellen Chart

The Snellen chart has **11 lines of letters**, starting large at the top and shrinking as you go down. Each line corresponds to a different acuity fraction:

Line	Fraction	Meaning
Top line	20/200	Severe impairment (legal blindness threshold in many countries)
2nd line	20/100	Very poor vision
3rd line	20/70	Moderate impairment
Middle lines	20/50 → 20/40	Borderline functional vision
Near bottom	20/30 → 20/25	Slightly better than average
Bottom line	20/20	Normal vision
Extra fine print	20/15 or 20/10	Better than average vision

## Comparing 20/70 vs 7/20

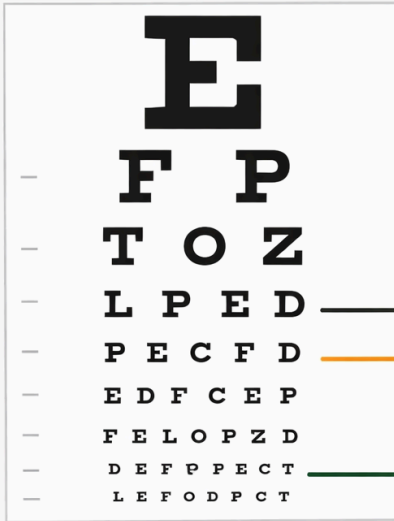
- **20/70:** You see at 20 ft what normal vision sees at 70 ft.
- **7/20:** You see at 7 ft what normal vision sees at 20 ft.
- **Interpretation:** Both indicate reduced acuity, but **7/20 is worse** because you must be much closer to discern the same detail. In fact, 7/20 is roughly equivalent to 20/57 if scaled to the standard 20-foot testing distance.

## Key Takeaways

- **Numerator (top number)** = testing distance (usually 20 ft).
- **Denominator (bottom number)** = distance at which a person with normal vision can read the same line.
- **Higher denominator → worse vision.**
- **20/70** is impaired but functional; **7/20** is more severe and indicates a need for corrective lenses or further evaluation.

Would you like me to create a **visual diagram of the Snellen chart lines** from 20/200 down to 20/10, so you can clearly see how the numbers progress?

# SNELLEN EYE CHART



VISUAL ACUITY	
20 / 200	SEVERE IMPAIRMENT
20 / 100	VERY POOR VISION
20 / 70	MODERATE IMPAIRMENT
20 / 50	
20 / 40	
20 / 30	
20 / 25	
20 / 20	NORMAL VISION
20 / 15	EXTRA SHARP
7 / 20	SUPER VISION

**20 / 70**  
 You see at 20 feet what normal vision sees at 70 feet.

**7 / 20**  
 You see at 7 feet what normal vision sees at 20 feet. **MUCH WORSE VISION.**