VOCABULARY

At the optician’s

Most people who wear glasses are either short-sighted or long-sighted. But glasses have also become a fashion accessory. ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents the language you’ll need to shop at the optician’s.

Buying glasses

Assistant: Can I help you?
Clare: Yes, I’ve just had my eyes tested. Here’s the prescription your optometrist gave me.
Assistant: Ah, yes. Have you worn glasses before? Or contacts?
Clare: No, neither. I had 20/20 vision until recently. But lately, I’ve been having difficulty reading, especially in dim light. My husband keeps telling me to stop squinting.
Assistant: Ah, well, most people become long-sighted as they grow older.
Clare: I bought myself a pair of ready readers — you know, those cheap reading glasses that you can find everywhere...
Assistant: We definitely don’t recommend those. You can ruin your eyesight with the wrong lenses. Have you thought about trying varifocals? We have a special offer at just £199. That includes scratch-resistant, reflection-free lenses...
Clare: Does that mean they’re tinted?
Assistant: No, no, the lenses are colourless. The offer comes with a spare pair or a pair of prescription sunglasses. Why don’t you try on a few frames to see what suits you?
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1. A. optometrist (the others are different kinds of glasses)
   B. short-sighted (the other adjectives describe the features of lenses)
   C. contact lenses (the other objects are things you need if you wear glasses)

2. A. wear
   B. squint
   C. suits
   D. try on
   E. ruins

3. A–4; B–5; C–2; D–1; E–3

4. A. hinges
   B. temples
   C. nose pads
   D. wipes

Exercise 1
Odd one out: Cross out the one word in each line that does not match the others.

A. optometrist | ready readers | spectacles | sunglasses
B. reflection-free | scratch-resistant | short-sighted | tinted
C. contact lenses | disposable wipes | glasses case | glasses cloth

Exercise 2
Complete each definition below with the correct form of a suitable verb. You can find all the verbs in the dialogue on the opposite page.

A. If you have to ____________ glasses or contact lenses, you probably have problems with your eyesight.
B. If you ____________, you close your eyes slightly to try to see something better.
C. If a style of glasses ____________ you, it makes you look good.
D. If you ____________ a pair of glasses, you put it on to see if it fits and how it looks.
E. If something ____________ your eyesight, it badly and permanently affects your ability to see.

Exercise 3
Match the sentence halves to define the words.

A. “Glasses” are...
   1. lenses that you wear on your eyes to help you see better.
B. “Bifocals” are...
   2. glasses with lenses that are not surrounded by frames.
C. “Rimless glasses” are...
   3. the ability to see normally without wearing glasses.
D. “Contacts” are...
   4. made up of two lenses on a frame that rests on the nose and ears.
E. “20/20 vision” is...
   5. glasses of which each lens consists of two parts.

Exercise 4
Complete the sentences with the words from the list.

hinges | nose pads | temples | wipes

A. These frames have flexible ____________, so you can bend the arms beyond a 90-degree angle.
B. The ____________ on these metal frames curve around the ear, so they are ideal for doing sports.
C. The soft rubber ____________ allow your glasses to rest comfortably on your nose.
D. All our prescription glasses come with a stylish case and a box of disposable ____________.

From far and near
If you cannot see things clearly that are far away from you, you are probably short-sighted. The American English word is nearsighted.

If you cannot see things clearly that are close to you, you are probably long-sighted, or far-sighted in American English.

affect [əˈfekt]
→ hier: beeinträchtigen
→ English: influence
glass [ˈɡlæs]
→ English: Glass
odd [əd]
→ unpassend
optometrist [ɒptəˈmɑːtrɪst]
→ English: optometrist
angle [ˈæŋɡl]
→ English: Angle
prescription glasses [ˈprɛsərɪʃən ˈɡlæsɪz]
→ English: prescription glasses