



Peripheral vision

What You Need

- 2 friends
- colored paper
- scissors
- newspaper
- markers

Peripheral vision is when you can see something out of the corner of your eye while you're looking straight ahead.



- 1 **Choose** one friend to be the **recorder** and one to be the **mover**.
- 2 **Cut** different shapes out of colored paper. Each shape should be about 4 to 6 inches wide. On each shape **write** a letter of the alphabet.
- 3 **Put** the newspaper on the ground in front of you and **stand** so that your toes touch the edge. Have the recorder **draw** a semicircle on the newspaper.
- 4 **Stare** straight ahead. Don't move your eyes from side to side.
- 5 Have the mover **pick** a shape and hold it up at arm's length. Then the mover should **stand** at your left side, slightly behind you. Have the mover slowly **walk** around you holding the shape above the line on the newspaper.
- 6 Say, "**Stop!**" when you first notice movement of the object or its shape, color, or letter. Have the recorder **mark** where the mover is standing on the newspaper.
- 7 Remember to keep looking **straight** ahead!
- 8 **Switch** roles with your friends and **test** their peripheral vision.



Now it's time to **experiment**. What happens if your friend starts on your **right** rather than your left? What happens if you try this experiment in a room with **little light**? Choose **one thing** to change (that's the variable) and **predict** what you think will happen. Then **test it** and **send** your results to ZOOM at pbskids.org/zoom

Sent in by Henry R. of Bakersfield, CA



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Illustrations by Stephen Schudlich.

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Peripheral Vision

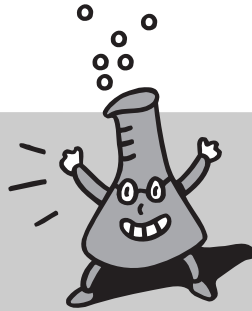
Record each person's name in the chart. List the order in which each person notices letter [L], color [C], movement [M], and shape [S].

Peripheral Vision Test

Name	First	Second	Third	Fourth

Science Scoop

Look at your data chart. Which did you **notice** first: motion, color, shape, or the letter? Did everyone notice them in the same **order**? Most people see **motion** first. When your friend is standing next to you and starts moving, you can see your friend move out of the **corner** of your eye. In the back of your eye, there are different parts called rods and **cones**. Near the side of your eye, there are some **rods** but hardly any cones. The rods help you see **motion**, but not color, shape, or the letter. When your friend moves towards the center of your vision, you can now see **color**. That is because the middle of your eye has many cones, and cones help you see color. When you are using the center of your eye to look, it is packed with rods and cones, and you can see the **shape** and the **letter**.



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