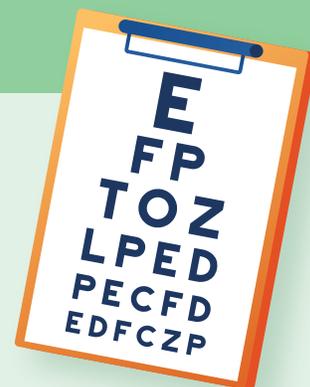


## UNCHARTED TERRITORY

# All about the Snellen eye chart



When you picture an eye doctor's office, one image that likely comes to mind is the iconic eye chart. Most often, that chart is the Snellen eye chart; the black-and-white chart featuring a large "E" at the top, followed by progressively smaller rows of letters.

You know the one!



## History of the Snellen eye chart<sup>1</sup>

**1862**

In 1862, the Snellen eye chart was created.



Herman Snellen was the Dutch eye doctor who created the Snellen eye chart to measure how clearly you can see.

**E**

The Snellen eye chart features rows of capital letters, called optotypes, that get smaller as you move down the chart, starting with the famous big "E" at the top.

**20/20**

During an eye exam, patients read the letters from about 20 feet away, while one eye is covered at a time. Each line represents a level of visual acuity, which is where terms like "20/20 vision" come from.



More than 160 years later, it is still helping eye doctors around the world to check vision and keep people seeing clearly.



Other common eye chart varieties include the Tumbling E, the Jäger and the LEA Symbols chart.