[Required Information]

That section must be filled by the content editor/writer.

The information in that section is necessary for the web developer.

## Short Introduction / Description

Brief descriptions and characteristics of common types of visual impairments.

## Category

Accessibility Fundamentals

## Sub-Category

About Disabilities

## Page Title

Visual Impairments

## Target Audience

Everyone

# Visual Impairments

Visual disabilities are sensory disabilities that can range from some amount of vision loss, loss of visual acuity, or increased or decreased sensitivity to specific or bright colors, to complete or uncorrectable loss of vision in either or both eyes.

## Blindness

**Definition:** Blindness is a sensory disability involving nearly complete vision loss.

**Characteristics:** Some people are completely blind, without the ability to see anything. Others can perceive light versus dark, or the general shapes of large objects, but cannot read text or recognize people by sight.

## Colour Blindness

**Definition:** Colour blindness is a sensory disability that impairs a person’s ability to distinguish certain colour combinations.

**Characteristics:** The most common forms of colour-blindness affect an individual’s ability to distinguish reds and greens, although other colours may be affected.

## Low Vision

**Definition:** Low vision is uncorrectable vision loss that interferes with daily activities. It is better defined in terms of function, rather than numerical test results.

* In other words, low vision is “not enough vision to do whatever it is you need to do,” which can vary from person to person.
* Most eye care professionals prefer to use the term “low vision” to describe permanently reduced vision that cannot be corrected with regular glasses, contact lenses, medicine, or surgery.

## Adaptive Technologies and Adaptive Strategies

Here are some commonly used products:

* Screen readers
  + Jaws
  + NVDA
  + Microsoft Narrator
  + VoiceOVER
  + Talkback
* Text to speech software
  + TextAloud
  + OpenBook
* Screen magnifiers
  + Zoom text
* Braille display
* Optical character recognition (OCR) software which can scan printed text and convert it into digital text