

WHAT DOES A DISPENSING OPTICIAN DO?

There are a number of people who work in an optical practice.

The first person you will meet is likely to be the **RECEPTIONIST** who can book your appointment. You may also meet an **OPTICAL ASSISTANT** in the front of the practice. They can help you to choose frames and lenses. Some may be trained to carry out initial checks before your eye test.

The **OPTOMETRIST** is the person who examines your eyes. They will then pass you on to the dispensing optician (DO) who is trained and qualified to offer the best advice on frames and lenses to suit you and what you want to see.

The **DISPENSING OPTICIAN (DO)** advises on, fits and supplies the best spectacles after taking account of your visual, lifestyle and work needs. They can analyse your prescription and recommend lenses, tints and coatings to give you the best visual performance. They can help you choose great spectacle frames which will fit you well. They take the measurements and keep records of the specifications.



THE OPTICIANS

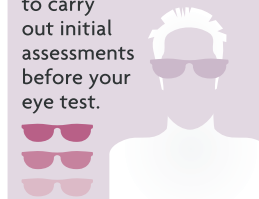
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The receptionist can book your appointment.

An optical assistant can assist you to choose frames and lenses. Some may be trained to carry out initial assessments before your eye test.



The optometrist checks for signs of eye disease and prescribes spectacles if you need them.

The dispensing optician is trained and qualified to offer the best advice on frames and lenses to suit your lifestyle and prescription.



A contact lens optician specialises in fitting contact lenses.



In some practices you will also find a laboratory where optical technicians make spectacles.



WHAT DOES A DO DO?

What you need to know



A DO's specialist skills include professional advice on lenses for night driving, UV protection, prescription sunglasses, spectacles for VDU use, sports and safety eyewear.

DOs also play a key role in advising on and dispensing low vision aids if you are partially sighted.

Dispensing opticians play an important role in advising parents and dispensing spectacles to children.

They are also able to fit and provide aftercare for contact lenses after further training. DOs who can fit contact lenses are known as contact lens opticians. Some contact lens opticians specialise further and offer care for a range of minor eye conditions affecting the front of the eye.

Dispensing spectacles to children, to people with sight loss, or dispensing of contact lenses can only be done by, or under supervision of, dispensing opticians or optometrists registered with the GOC, or registered medical practitioners.

All registered DOs have done at least three years training to qualify. Only DOs registered with the GOC can practise in the UK, or use the protected title dispensing optician.

Want to find out more? Ask to talk to the DO in your local practice or visit <http://bit.ly/NJADO> to discover more about the role of a DO and careers.



**GO ONLINE AND
FIND OUT MORE**

