

Pupil

Your pupil changes size to control the amount of light that enters your eye.

Try this:

- Put your eye against the lens and look into the mirror.
- Turn the knob to adjust the light. Look in the mirror to see your pupil respond by getting larger and smaller.
- Notice that your pupil sometimes overreacts, shrinking down too far, then reopening slightly.

What's going on?

The *iris* is the colored, circular muscle that controls the size of the *pupil*, the hole that lets light into your eye. In bright light, the pupil contracts to limit the light and protect your eye; in dim light, the pupil expands to let in as much light as possible.

When you move between bright and dim areas, your pupils adjust rapidly to the brightness change. Your pupils can also reflect your feelings: When you look at something you like, your pupils may expand; when you look at something you don't like, they may contract.



In bright light, your pupil contracts, becoming smaller.



In dim light, your pupil expands, becoming larger.