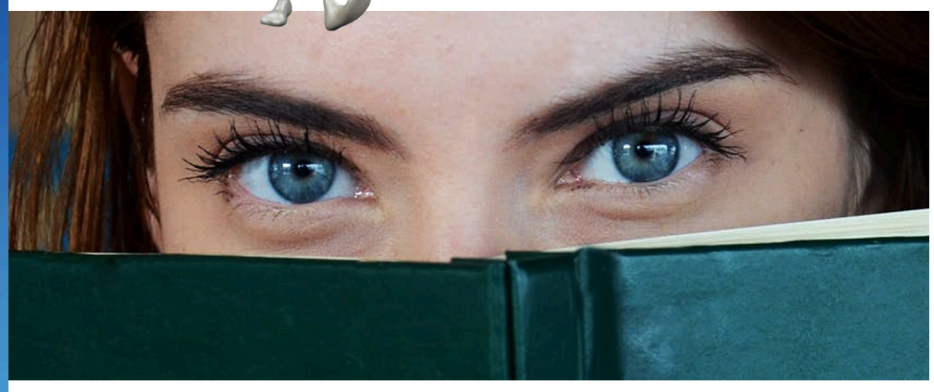
Mercury Bay Optometrist

EYE TIMES

Issue 66

THE IDIOMATIC EYE



AN EYE FOR AN EYE : Compensation or retribution that is (or should be) equal to the injury or offence that was originally dealt. The saying comes from passages in the Old Testament, including in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.

TURN A BLIND EYE: To "turn a blind eye" to something means to pretend not to have noticed it. Interestingly, this expression is said to have arisen as a result of the famous English naval hero Admiral Horatio Nelson, who, during the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801, is alleged to have deliberately raised his telescope to his blind eye, thus ensuring that he would not see any signal from his superior giving him discretion to withdraw from the battle.

A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES: A welcome sight; someone or something you are glad to see. This phrase was first recorded by Jonathan Swift, in A complete collection of genteel and ingenious conversation, 1738: "The Sight of you is good for sore Eyes."

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND: What is absent is soon forgotten. This phrase has been proverbial since Homer's time; the earliest recorded use in English was about 1450.

APPLE OF SOMEONE'S EYE: The expression apple of my eye is often used when referring to family members, or those who are closest to us to mean that they are someone's favourite person or object. The earliest appearance of the term is found in King Alfred's writing in the ninth century AD. The Bible (King James Version, translated in 1611) also contains the English idiom "apple of my eye." However the "apple" reference comes from English idiom, not biblical Hebrew. The Hebrew literally says, "dark part of the eye."

CRY ONE'S EYES OUT: Crying one's eyes out is an idiom used for very sad events in one's life. It means to cry for a very long time in a desperate manner such as at the loss of a loved one. The expression is referring to how intense the act of crying of the one being spoken to will be. It is actually impossible to go blind from crying, let alone dislocate your eye from their sockets.

EAGLE EYE: Someone with an eagle eye has an ability to see important details and notice mistakes. First recorded in 1595-1605

FEAST ONE'S EYES ON SOMETHING: If you feast your eyes on something, you enjoy the sight of something. This idiom is often used to boast about a possession of which you are very proud. This metaphoric expression may have been originated by Shakespeare, who used it in Sonnet 47: "With my love's picture then my eye doth feast."

GIVE SOMEONE THE EYE: People will run when you give them the eye because you look at someone in an accusatory or disapproving manner. The origin of the idiom is not known.

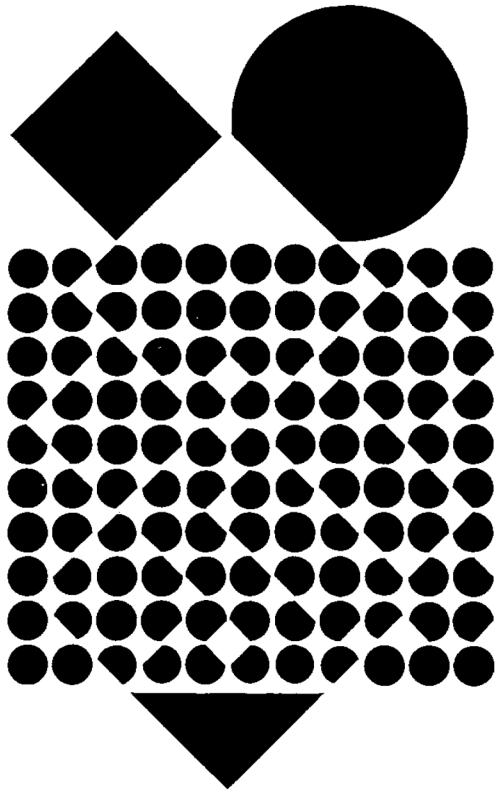
HAVE EYES IN THE BACK OF ONE'S HEAD: If you have eyes in the back of your head, you are be able to see what is going on. This can be frustrating because others might think they are being secretive and are not noticed. This phrase has been used since the early 1800s.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE: If you are in the public eye, you are in a position where the public can observe your actions, so be very careful! This usage, which is similar to in the limelight, dates from the late 1800s.

KEEP ONE'S EYE ON THE BALL: People who can keep their eye on the ball remain concentrated, especially in a work situation. It is commonly used in (and originates from) the game of baseball, to imply that players need to watch where the ball is at all times.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE: Most parents help their children without batting an eye because they do it without hesitation. These expressions, which use bat in the sense of "blink," date from about 1900.

THE EYE TIMES OPTICAL ILLUSION



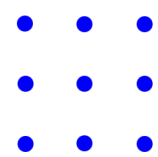
This illusion is an example of Cassiopeia - A Figure-Ground Effect. Concentrate on the various flattened edges alters the forms from squares to rectangles and other configurations. The mind, not the retina, produces the visual effigy. In all cases, retinal simulation is the same, but the mind alters the projected image.

This month's Mind Puzzles:

1. What is represented by the following letters (*Clue: it is a 10 letter word*):

ABCDEFGPQRSTUVWXYZ

2. Can you join up all of the dots with 4 straight lines without lifting your pen off the paper (Yes, it can be done!)



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