

## Find your blind spot

Did you know that we are *all* partly blind; that there is a large hole almost at the center of our visual world? Check it for yourself.

Example 1:



Holding this sheet of paper about a foot or so away, close your left eye and look steadily at the white cross with your right eye. Doing this, move the sheet slowly towards and away from your open eye, until at some point the white disc disappears completely from its black background. When this happens, the retinal image of the disc is being formed within the blind spot in your right eye.

Example 2:



It is easy to test that both our eyes have the blind spot. Try the previous experiment with the right eye closed. Look steadily at the white cross with your left eye. Again, the white disc disappears completely from the black background!

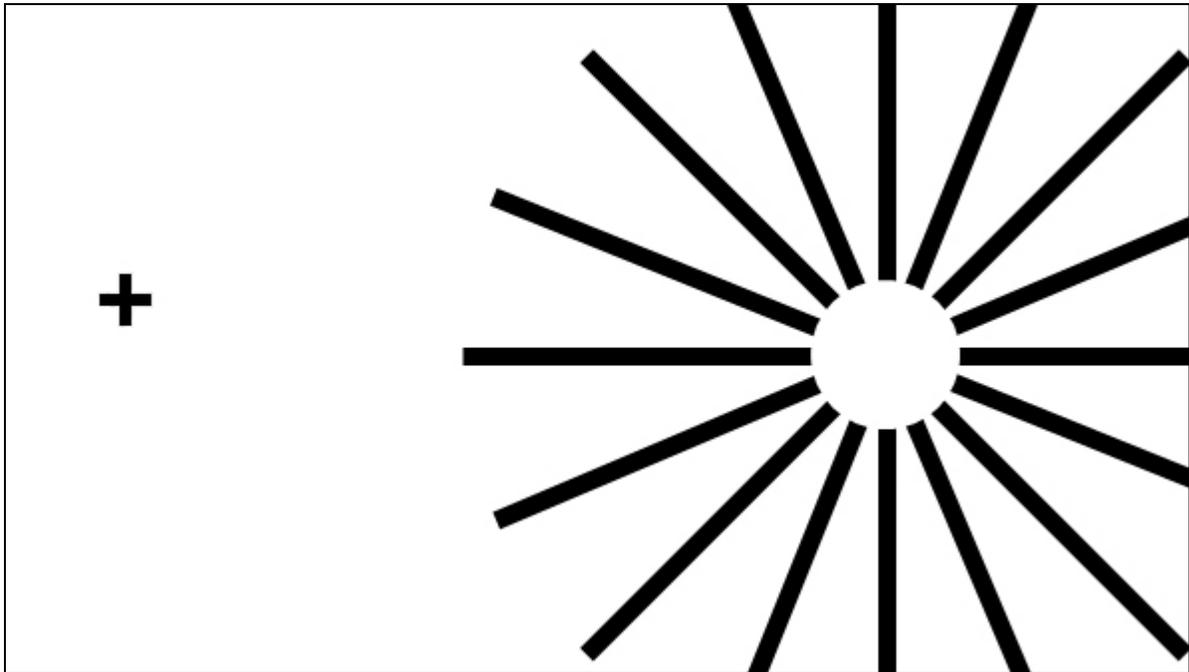
### Example 3:



Sunrise morning © <http://www.lennythomas-paintings.com/Oils.html>

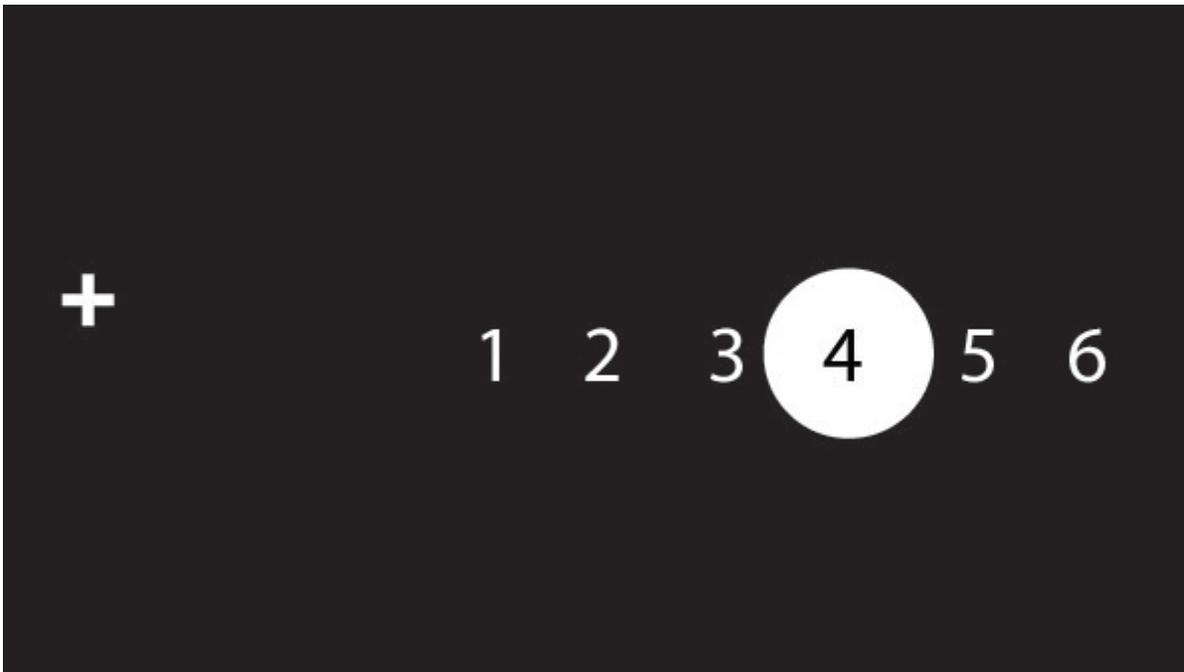
Use your blind spot to make the sun disappear! Close your left eye, and fix your gaze on the cross. At the right point, the sun should disappear. Interestingly, the brain seems to fill in the missing sun with the surrounding sky.

#### Example 4:



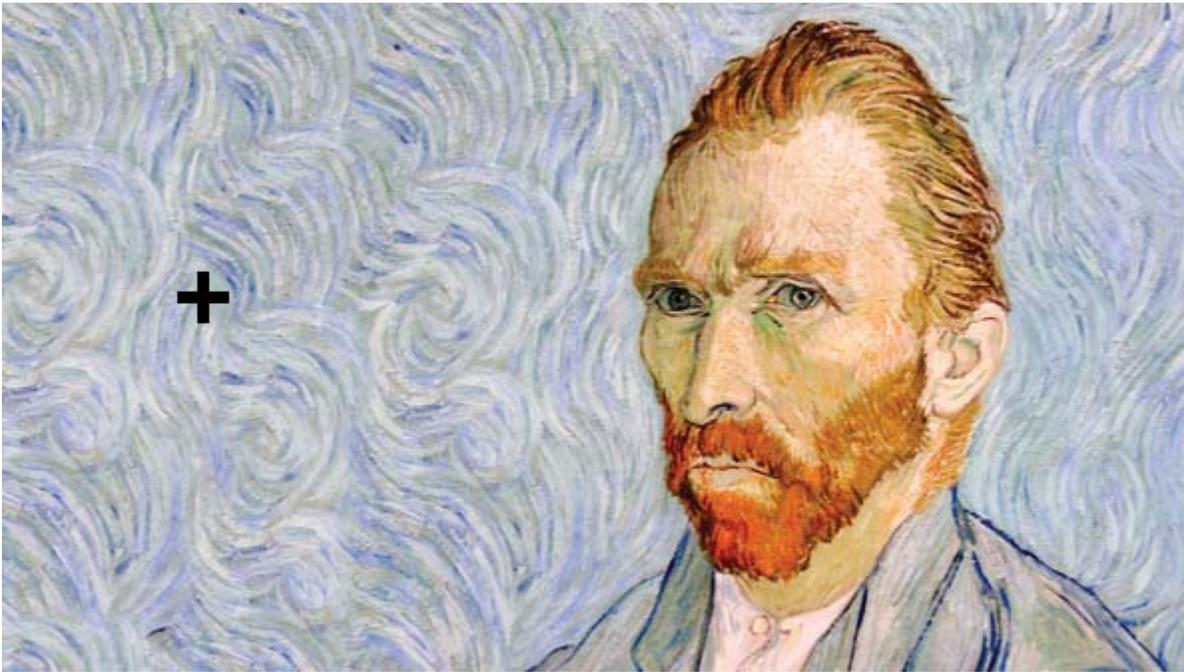
In this case, close your left eye and fixate the white disc on the blind spot in your right eye. Viola! The wagon wheel appears to be complete. The brain seems to extend the "spokes" of the wheel into the blind spot. The brain automatically "fills in" the blind spot with a simple extrapolation (extension) of the image surrounding the blind spot. This is why you do not notice the blind spot in your day-to-day observations of the world.

### Example 5:



Again, close your left eye and fixate the white disc on the blind spot in your right eye. You will notice that the white disc and the number 4 within it both disappear. However, unlike the previous case where the brain filled the blind spot with the most plausible pattern, the brain fails to fill in the blind spot with missing number 4 in the series. The brain only fills in with plausible "patterns" and not plausible "information".

Example 6:



Now, help Van Gogh lose his year.