Examples Explained:

Example #1: Single-vision prescription is shown here. There is astigmatism in the right eye only.

Example #2: Bi-Focal / Progressive prescription is shown here. The +2.00 ADD power is for standard (lined) Bi-Focal's and the PAL is only for Progressive Bi-Focal lenses. If there is no PAL on the prescription, then in most cases the ADD power can be used for lined Bi-Focal's or Progressives.

Example #3: This prescription shows a prism is required. The prism is different for each eye. According to the prescription, it would be 1.0 dipters 'Base-Up' for the right eye and 2.0 dipters 'Base-Out' for the left eye.

Example #4: This example shows how a distance + bi-focal/progressive prescription can be translated into a near-vision only prescription, in case the customer would like reading-only glasses using the 'Near' prescription shown here.

Example #5: In some cases, the copy of the prescription will not have the grids laid out. If this is the case, this example shows how to read & correlate the fields to the normalized prescription format.

Prescription Glossary

O.D.: Right Eye  
O.S.: Left Eye  
Glasses:  
D.S.: Diopeters Sphere, meaning there is no Cylinder (CYL) power in the eye.  
SPH.: Sphere; Is the prominent strength in an eyeglass prescription. Doctor's have a tendency to sometimes write the numbers/parameters a bit differently. In the particular example, the SPH would be read & normalized as -0.50 for both eyes. You may sometimes see 'SPH', 'PA', or 'PLANOS' written in this field by the doctor, which would simply mean there is 0.00 power in that section.

CYL: Cylinder; The amount of astigmatism. In some cases the doctor will write 'DS' or 'SPH' in this section, which would simply mean to leave the field empty or have 0.00 power in that section.

AXIS: Comes hand in hand with the CYLINDER. If there is no Cylinder, then there should not be any Axis. It's a degree/angle, therefore, it would be a value of or between 1 to 180. The reading from the example shown to the left would be 145 for the Right Eye (O.D.) and 15 for the Left Eye (O.S.). When there is a Cylinder and no Axis, this means usually that it is a 0 value axis, which in this sense would be a 180 degree axis.

ADD: The amount of power that gets added to the distance Rx, for your reading-only Rx or for the bottom half of your bifocals/progressives.

PAL: It is only for Progressive Bi-Focal lenses and the PAL is only for Progressive Bi-Focal lenses. If there is no 'PAL' on the prescription, then in most cases the ADD power can be used for lined Bi-Focal's or Progressives.

Examples:

Example #1: Single Vision  
SPH: -1.25  
CYL: 0.75  
AXIS: 85  
ADD: 0.75

Example #2: Bi-Focal / Progressive prescription is shown here. The +2.00 ADD power is for standard (lined) Bi-Focal's and the PAL is only for Progressive Bi-Focal lenses.

Example #3: Prism  
SPH: 0.50  
CYL: -0.25  
AXIS: 105  
ADD: 0.50

Example #4: Distance and Near  
SPH: -2.00  
CYL: 0.75  
AXIS: 105  
ADD: 0.75

Example #5: No Grids  
SPH: -1.25 -1.00  
ADD: 0.75

Prescription Reading Tips

When there are no decimal points in the prescription

If your prescription does not show decimal points, then it may be read as follows:

-100 = -1.00  
+25 = +0.25

If there are blank fields in the prescription

There may be blank fields in your prescription. In most cases there is not a mistake. Only fill-out the fields which are filled-out on the prescription and leave the rest blank.