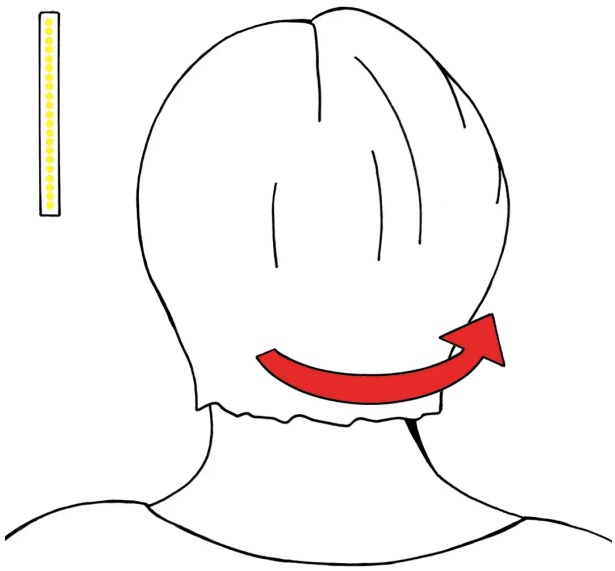
Lightstick

Bill Bell

What do you see in the flickering row of lights?



Look at the flickering row of lights standing approximately 10 meters away.

Quickly look from one point on the left of the row of lights to a point on the right.

Images and letterings emerge when your eye „strokes“ the row of lights. In order to see the lettering, the direction in which the eye strokes the lights is crucial.

The row of lights very quickly shows different vertical fragments of an image. When you are not moving, these individual images all hit the same spot in your eye and the photoreceptors cannot grasp the rapid change. However, when moving your head, the individual images are projected side by side on the retina and a complete image is created in your eye from the afterimage.

The eye automatically makes small jerky movements one to three times per second, the so-called microsaccades. These ensure that the incoming light constantly hits different areas of the retina. This prevents fatigue of the sensory cells.