

What to expect: Refraction and Lenses

During this week we will learn what happens when light hits transparent objects. Some of it may be reflected, but most of it will go through, i.e. it is being transmitted.

The transmitted light ray usually does not continue to travel in exactly the same direction as the incident ray. This bending of the transmitted ray at the interface between two media (e.g. air and glass) is called refraction.

People have used the phenomenon of refracting light for a long time to manufacture optical equipment. The simplest one already used since hundreds of years is a magnifying glass, which is an example of a lens.

During this week you will learn about lenses together with the equation that governs the behavior of light going through lenses and the images that are produced.