
INTRODUCTION

When Ed Nolan was in elementary school, he remembers coloring a picture of a boy green. “It looked tan to me,” he said. “My classmates heckled me about that.”

Of his color vision deficiency (CVD), commonly known as colorblindness, Ed said, “If you never had something, you don’t miss it. That doesn’t mean there haven’t been challenges.” He mentioned communication as an example. “Someone may say, ‘Hey, look at the green truck over there,’ which may require clarification for me. So I’ll say something like, ‘Oh, the one with a dent in the bumper,’ which makes it clear to me.”

For a time Ed wanted to be an Air Force pilot but realized that career goal was impossible for him. Another occupation he thought about pursuing was videography. “I knew there were obstacles and didn’t see how I could work around a lot of what’s required for video production.” Instead, he went into Web developing. “I work with colors every day. What’s interesting is that having the deficiency has given me a great opportunity to learn about it. I learned what I do see, what I don’t see and how to compensate for that. I understand the principles of complementary colors and I do all color matching numerically. What might look the same or very similar to me may be worlds apart numerically.”

CVD is among the most common of genetic disorders, affecting approximately eight percent of the population worldwide.

Over the more than 200 years the condition has been recognized, CVD has affected countless lives. Yet the disorder remains poorly understood, even by those who are affected. Challenges faced by those who see colors differently range from life-altering events like choosing an occupation and identifying which signal light is on to picking out a shade of carpeting or matching the color of a pair of socks.

That's what this book is about: reduced color vision and colorblindness, their origins, how we learn about color, hurdles faced by those in our color-coded world who see color differently, tests to detect CVD and attempts at correction.

You may never think about color in the same way again.



Joe Knight is your guide through this book. You can write to him at: info@CVDbooks.com