Taking Away Far-sightedness

If your lenses for distance vision magnify objects, then you are far-sighted.

By definition, a far-sighted person can "sight far;" that is, he can see objects off in the distance well; frequently better than a person with normal, or 20/20 vision. If a person does not have much astigmatism or another optical problem, a far-sighted person can often see better way down the road without his glasses than with his glasses on, which is why many far-sighted people do not wear their glasses while driving.

Where far-sighted people have real trouble is when they try to sight near. The closer objects are to them, such as in their hands, the more trouble they have focusing clearly. Few far-sighted people with bifocals want to be without them for reading. Far-sightedness is a hindrance in reading and other near vision tasks.

Questions often arise in a patient's mind when he receives new glasses with a stronger prescription, and finds out that he can not see as well off in the distance as he did with his older, weaker glasses. Far-sightedness is an advantage when sighting far; the more power the doctor puts in your lenses, the less far-sighted you are (the less able to sight far). With the new lenses, the patient has only normal vision, when he was used to seeing off afar with better than normal vision.

Why would your doctor do this to you? You were not seeing close up or at a near distance with normal vision; for near vision, far-sightedness is a real disadvantage. The doctor had to get rid of all your far-sightedness so he could give you normal reading or near vision.

Getting used to seeing only 20/20, or normal vision, in the distance can be a trial if you are used to seeing better than that. It is a price that often must be paid in order to have normal near vision: trading away some distance vision for better near vision.