STEREOGRAMS.ILLUSIONS.IM

How two flat pictures look solid

Official wording is plain, and it keeps a careful "ordinarily."

Encyclopaedia Britannica defines stereoscopy as the science and technology of two-dimensional drawings or photographs that, when viewed by both eyes, appear to exist in three dimensions in space. A popular term is 3-D. Stereoscopic pictures are produced in pairs, from slightly different angles corresponding to the two eyes.

Official point	Official wording, kept as written
One picture, each eye	Pictures are viewed by some means that presents the right-eye image to the right eye and the left-eye image to the left.
With, or without, a box	An experienced observer of stereopairs may be able to achieve the proper focus and convergence without special viewing equipment. Ordinarily, however, some device is used.
A card	Official Library of Congress wording: stereographs consist of two nearly identical photographs or photomechanical prints, paired to produce the illusion of a single three-dimensional image, usually when viewed through a stereoscope.
Not on this sheet	This sheet has no photographs, and no hidden-image picture. Official wording about free-viewing is enough. A commercial trademark is not used here as if it were a ReallyByte name.

A short quiz

1. From how many slightly different angles, in official wording, are stereoscopic pictures produced?
2. Must every observer use a stereoscope, according to official wording?
3. What, in official Library of Congress wording, is a stereograph?

Answers. Pairs, corresponding to the two eyes. No — an experienced observer may manage without one; ordinarily some device is used. Two nearly identical photographs or prints, paired to produce the illusion of a single three-dimensional image, usually when viewed through a stereoscope.

Wording from Encyclopaedia Britannica, "stereoscopy," and the Library of Congress, "About this Collection | Stereograph Cards," re-checked 18 November 2026. stereograms.illusions.im is independent of both. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.