

A Perceptual Talk and Walk...



Observe yourself in the act of perceiving...

True/False Quiz - Talk

1. A one-eyed person could land an aeroplane. True or false?
2. A person with perfectly functioning eyes may not be able to see properly. True or false?
3. At birth a baby's visual system is still very immature. True or false?
4. It is almost impossible to study a baby's visual capacities because he is unable to report what he sees. True or false?
5. The main part of the brain involved in processing visual sensory information is the occipital lobe. True or false?
6. A colour-blind person is more likely to be male than female. True or false?
7. A person with only one eye could still fully appreciate a 3D movie. True or false?
8. Once you know you have been tricked by a visual illusion, you won't be tricked a second time. True or false?
9. If five people are looking at the same scene, they all perceive the same thing. True or false?
10. There is a place on the retina with no rods and no cones. True or false?

Now walk around the room and find examples amongst the stimuli of each of the following. Write the number(s) of each visual stimulus beside each description below:

Experience	Stimulus Number(s)
a You perceive something that isn't actually there.	
b You organize visual stimuli in one picture in (at least) two different ways; you find it somehow ambiguous .	
c You examine a visual stimulus with a friend and discover that the two of you are perceiving it differently.	
d You interpret a visual stimulus without great difficulty, even though it is moderately confusing or not entirely straightforward at first.	
e You notice yourself organizing the different parts of a stimulus in a certain manner; that is, grouping the parts in a particular way.	
f You notice a perceptual difficulty experienced by another person, either through evidence in a stimulus or through comments from other class members.	
g You discover a stimulus in which the background and the object in the foreground are difficult to tell apart.	
h You perceive a stimulus as having depth , although it is drawn on a flat surface.	
i You perceive contours that don't exist in objective reality.	
j Another person (or people) describes a stimulus quite differently from how you would describe it.	

Answers to T/F Questions – Brief Summary

- 1 True – His/her depth perception would not be as good as that of a person who could employ **binocular** cues, but he/she would still have the **pictorial** cues... I'd sort of prefer a pilot with both eyes functioning, however!
- 2 True – There are examples in literature of people whose vision has been restored after being blind since birth, yet since they have not learned to organize and interpret visual stimuli, they can often have serious visual difficulties. Another example is a person with **visual agnosia**, whose eyes are functional but whose brain cannot recognize or interpret certain sensory information correctly.
- 3 True – **The lens, the muscles that control the lens, the cones and also the occipital lobe are still immature.** A baby has poor **acuity**, may sometimes see double, cannot follow a moving object smoothly, etc.
- 4 False – It is harder, but not impossible. **Habituation** is the key method – if a baby focuses on a new stimulus and pays attention to it, one can assume that it has noticed a change in the stimulus.
- 5 True 6 True 7 False
- 8 False – The illusion still tricks you; it is out of your conscious control.
- 9 False – As a result of the **psychological factors** that affect visual perception, we may perceive a scene or visual stimulus differently.
- 10 True, the **blind spot**.

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