

The Five Senses





Your eyes tell you the color, shape, and size of the world around you.

Seeing the World

A car horn honks. Street lights glow. Your five senses help you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch the world around you.

Your eyes tell you the color, shape, and size of things. Light enters a tiny hole in the center of your eye and goes to the back of your eye. There the light lands on a nerve, and the nerve carries a message to your brain. Your brain understands the message and tells you what you see.

Key Notes:

What do your five senses do?



Sound travels to
inside the ear.

Hearing the World

A door slams. A cat purrs. Your sense of hearing tells you these things are happening.

Hearing takes place inside the ear. However, before you hear anything, there must be sound. Sound is made when something vibrates. The sound travels through the air and hits your eardrum, which vibrates against three bones. These bones move another part of your ear, which sends messages to your nerves. Then, nerves help the message travel to your brain, which tells you what you're hearing.

Key Notes:

What happens when you hear a sound?



Smell and taste tell your brain if food is good.

Smelling and Tasting Food

Your nose can smell between 4,000 and 10,000 different odors. Your nose can also help your tongue learn if foods taste good.

When odors pass over the cells in your nose, nerves carry messages to your brain. If your brain thinks a food smells good, it probably tastes good, too.

Next, you put the food into your mouth. The taste buds on your tongue send messages through your nerves to your brain, telling you if the food is good.

Key Notes:

How do your senses tell you if something is good to eat?



The sense of touch can make you feel cold.

Touching the World

Your senses of sight, hearing, taste, and smell happen in certain parts of your body. Touch tells you whether something is hot or cold. Touch also protects you from pain. When you feel pain, you move quickly to protect yourself.

Your skin is made up of layers. Many nerves are found in the top layer, close to your skin's surface. There, they can help you learn quickly about the world around you.

Key Notes:

How is your sense of touch different from your other senses?

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