

## Perception Chapter Summaries

Sensation: refers to the reception of stimuli, we sense information about the world.

Perception: refers to the interpretation of that information, an interpretive element.

Our sensory receptors:

1. Vision
2. Audition
3. Touch
4. Taste
5. Smell
6. Kinaesthetic (position of body in space)

Our sensory organs change the physical energy into neural energy. This is known as transduction.

When the information is transduced, it is disseminated throughout the brain.

These neurons in our brain produce awareness. Studies of damage to the brain show us that certain types of the brain do different things (localisation of function):

- Temporal Lobe – audition, production of speech
- Frontal lobe – planning and emotion
- Primary somatosensory area – touch

The science of perception is known as psychophysics; the relationship between the psychological and physical world.

The world is not always as it appears (illusion). The images perceived are different to reality; therefore your experience of the world is a product of your brains functions.

Absolute thresholds: minimum amount of stimulus to detect sound. Most of our experiences are above thresholds.

Relative thresholds: how different two stimuli have to be to know the difference between the two.

Our discrimination thresholds depend on how intense the stimulus is.

Higher thresholds = poorer sensitivity

---

Perceptual process

