

# UNIT 4 — PERCEPTION

<b>Vocabulary Term</b>	<b>Definition of Term</b>	<b>Example</b>
Selective attention	The focusing of conscious awareness on a particular stimulus	The cocktail party effect
Perception	The process of organizing and interpreting sensory information, enabling us to recognize meaningful objects and events.	Not seeing a key point in a picture because you're trying to interpret what it means.
Visual capture	The tendency for vision to dominate the other senses	The lunch food looks really bad so even though it smells good, you don't want it.
Gestalt	An organized whole	people that are a part of a group with a cause.
Gestalt Psychologists	Emphasize our tendency to integrate pieces of information into meaningful wholes	Taking pieces of what someone is saying and making meaning out of it.
Depth Perception	The ability to see objects in three dimensions, which allows us to judge distance, although the images that strike the retina are two dimensional	A computer.
Grouping	The perceptual tendency to organize stimuli into coherent groups	Group of people that all relate in some way.
Visual Cliff	A laboratory device for testing depth perception in infants and young animals	A machine
Binocular Cues	Depth cues, such as retinal disparity and convergence, that depend on the use of two eyes	A rat in front of you.
Monocular Cues	Distance cues, such as linear perspective and overlap, available to either eye alone	Someone coming up on the side of you.
Retinal Disparity	A binocular cue for perceiving depth; the greater the disparity between the two objects images the retina receives of an object, the closer the object is to the viewer	A person coming up to you.
Convergence	A binocular cue for perceiving depth; the extent to which the eyes converge inward when looking at an object	Your nose
Perceptual Constancy	Perceiving object as unchanging, even as illumination and retinal images change	A car.
Perceptual Adaptation	In vision, the ability to adjust to an artificially displaces or even inverted visual field	
Perceptual Set	A mental predisposition to perceive one thing and not another	Perceiving what someone is doing but not another person.
Extrasensory Perception (ESP)	The controversial claim that perception can occur apart from sensory input	Parapsychology.
Figure-ground	The organization of the visual field objects that stand out from their surroundings	Sparkly pink diamonds on a shirt.
Phi phenomenon	An illusion of movement created when two or more adjacent lights blink on and off in quick succession.	A strobe light.

Parapsychology	The study of paranormal phenomena, including ESP and psychokinesis.	Extrasensory Perception (ESP)
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<b>Authors of Important Study</b>	<b>Basic of What Was Done</b>	<b>Lesson(s) learned from the study</b>
Eleanor Gibson and Richard Walk	They devised this miniature cliff with a glass-covered drop-off to determine whether crawling infants and newborn animals can perceive depth.	Even when coaxed, infants are reluctant to venture onto the glass over the cliff.
Adelbert Ames	This distorted room appears to have a normal rectangular shape when viewed through a peephole with one eye. The girl in the right corner appears disproportionately large because we judge her size based on the false assumption that she is the same distance away as the girl in the far corner.	That the closer you are, the bigger you are to everyone else and that perception can be misleading.

<b>Name of Important Person</b>	<b>What this person is known for</b>	<b>Impact on Psychology</b>
Ernest Weber	Weber's law: "to be perceived as different, two stimuli must differ by a constant minimum percentage."	Still refer to this law to this day.
Hermann von Helmholtz	Young-Helmholtz trichromatic (three-color) theory. The theory that the retina contains three different color receptors.  Place theory. Which is the theory that links the pitch we hear with the place where the cochlea's membrane is stimulated.	It helped us understand the eye better and how we see the colors that we do.  It helped us understand how the technical reason for hearing what we hear.
Ronald Melzack and Patrick Wall	Gate-control theory. The theory that the spinal cord contains a neurological "gate" that blocks pain signals or allows them to pass on to the brain.	This impacted psychology because it explains when and why we feel pain or don't.