

Senses

We have five senses that help us to experience the world around us.

Sight



Hearing



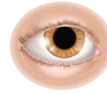
Smell



Touch

Taste

Sight



When light shines into our eyes, it is focused onto the retina (the back of the eye). Light sensitive cells in the retina send information to the brain, enabling us to see things around us.



The brain uses the images from both eyes to make a 3D image, helping us to work out how far away things are.

There are more than two million working parts in the eye!

Hearing



Sound helps us to communicate. It also provides entertainment and warns us about possible dangers.

Our outer ear helps to capture sound waves. These travel into the inner ear, which sends signals to our brain. Our brain then tries to recognise the sound.



People who are unable to hear can use sign language to communicate.

Smell



The nose is the organ that we use to smell nice and unpleasant smells!

Inside our nose are membranes and receptors that can detect smells. Information about these smells is then sent to the brain to help us identify them.

Our sense of smell is 10,000 times more sensitive than our sense of taste!

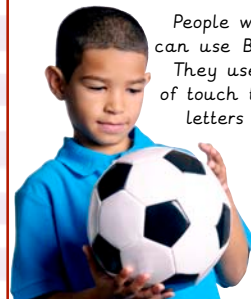


Touch



The sense of touch helps us to feel things around us.

Nerve endings in our skin (and other parts of our body) send information about the things that we are touching to our brain.



People who are blind can use Braille to read. They use their sense of touch to feel special letters on a page.

Taste



Our sense of taste helps us to experience nice flavours. It also warns us about rotten or dangerous food.

The taste buds on our tongue can detect five different tastes:

- Sweet
- Salty
- Sour
- Bitter
- Umami (savoury)

The human tongue has about 10,000 taste buds!

