TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL SENSES

• Recall: 2 types of senses:

■ General senses: distributed throughout the body.

■ Special senses: located in special sense _____.

• There are ____ special sense organs:

Sense	Vision	Smell (Olfaction)	Taste (Gustation)	Hearing	Equilibrium
Organ		Epithelium	Taste Buds	Ear & Cochlea	Semicircular Canals & Vestibule
Stimulus	Electromagnetic radiation (light)	Chemical properties	properties	Pressure waves	Movement and
Perception	Brightness and		Sweet, sour, salty, bitter, umami	Sound	Equilibrium

EXAMPLE: For the following questions, carefully consider the relationship between perceptions and the different stimuli that cause them.

a) If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, does it make a sound?



b) If the light is on in the basement and no one is home, what color are the walls?



c) If a hamburger is on the table and no one takes a bite, does it have a taste?



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PRACTICE: What is the difference between special senses and general senses?

- a) Special senses use action potentials, while general senses use graded potentials.
- b) Special senses are located in special sense organs, while general senses are distributed throughout the body.
- c) General senses include sight, taste, and equilibrium; special senses include pressure, temperature, and pain.
- d) The receptors for general senses are receptor cells, while special senses use modified nerve endings.

PRACTICE: Which of the following correctly matches the sense to the type of stimulus it measures in the environment?

- a) Electromagnetic radiation: Smell.
- b) Pressure waves traveling through a fluid: Hearing.
- c) Chemical properties of gasses dissolved in a liquid: Equilibrium.
- d) Movement and gravity: Sight.