

CHAPTER 5: PERCEPTION

ANSWERS TO CONCEPTS AND EXERCISES

No. 1: James Bond's Psychological Secrets

1. *Absolute threshold.* You would need to know the absolute threshold for the taste of the poison so that the person using the lipstick would not be able to taste the poison. (see Psychophysics)
2. *Difference threshold.* Spices already have a flavor. Therefore, you would need to know how much poison you could add before someone just noticed a difference in the taste. (see Judging Differences: Has Anything Changed?)
3. *Absolute threshold.* You would have to know the absolute threshold for the sound of the gunshot. The amount of auditory stimulus that the gunshot would make would have to be *below* the absolute threshold so that nobody could hear it. (see Psychophysics)
4. *Difference threshold.* Most alcohol already has a taste. You would have to find out what amount of tranquilizer you could add before someone would just notice a difference. (see Judging Differences: Has Anything Changed?)
5. *Difference threshold.* Bond would have to be able to just notice a difference in the amplitude of the beep of the watch/radio. (see Judging Differences: Has Anything Changed?)

No. 2: Perception on the Playground

1. *Relative size.* This is a stimulus cue for depth perception. Players on the other side of the soccer field will appear to be smaller than players on the side of the field closest to Yolanda. (see Depth Perception)
2. *Continuity.* This is a grouping principle. We perceive sensations that appear to create a continuous form (a line) as belonging together. (see Organizing the Perceptual World)
3. *Linear perspective.* This is a stimulus cue for depth perception. The parallel lines of a road that stretch out into the distance will seem to converge at the horizon. So the closer Sam gets to this convergence point, the farther away he will appear to Brian. (see Depth Perception)
4. *Interposition.* This is a depth cue. Objects that block the view of other objects are closer to us. Ali is blocking the view of Penny; therefore, Ali is closer to Sally. (see Depth Perception)
5. *Common Fate.* This is a Gestalt principle of perception, stating that when objects move in the same direction at the same speed, they will be perceived as a group. (see Organizing the Perceptual World)
6. *Closure.* This is a grouping principle. Even though parts of the circle are missing, the children still perceive the group as a circle. Their perceptual abilities allow them to fill in the gaps. (see Organizing the Perceptual World)
7. *Motion parallax.* This is a depth cue. Consuela knows that the objects that are closer to her seem to be moving much faster than those objects that are farther away. (see Depth Perception)