# Synesthesia

eslvideo.com Quiz by: Englishman

**1. What is synesthesia?**

○ a.) A blending of the senses

○ b.) A type of anesthesia

○ c.) A rare disease

**2. What does the word 'anesthesia' mean?**

○ a.) Joined feeling

○ b.) No feeling

○ c.) Blended senses

**3. What might someone with synesthesia experience when they hear music?**

○ a.) They see colors

○ b.) They feel tired

○ c.) They hear voices

**4. What is the most common form of synesthesia related to?**

○ a.) Colors and shapes

○ b.) Overlearned sequences

○ c.) Sounds and smells

**5. How might the number six appear to someone with synesthesia?**

○ a.) As blue

○ b.) As red

○ c.) As green

**6. How is the experience of synesthesia described?**

○ a.) Automatic and involuntary

○ b.) Rare and conscious

○ c.) Uncommon and voluntary

**7. What was the original estimate of how rare synesthesia was?**

○ a.) 1 in 1,000

○ b.) 1 in 20,000

○ c.) 1 in 100

**8. What percentage of the population is now believed to have some form of synesthesia?**

○ a.) 1%

○ b.) 2%

○ c.) 4%

**9. What does the speaker find interesting about synesthesia?**

○ a.) It is a rare condition

○ b.) It helps understand different perceptions of reality

○ c.) It is only found in children

**10. What does the speaker mean by 'perceptual genomics'?**

○ a.) How genes affect perception

○ b.) The study of diseases

○ c.) A type of therapy

**11. How do people with synesthesia often live their lives?**

○ a.) They are always aware of their condition

○ b.) They may not realize they see reality differently

○ c.) They have many medical issues

**12. What is one way synesthesia can affect beliefs?**

○ a.) It makes people more creative

○ b.) It leads to different beliefs about reality

○ c.) It causes confusion

**13. What might someone with synesthesia feel when they eat something?**

○ a.) A taste in their mouth

○ b.) A feeling on their fingertips

○ c.) A sound in their ears

**14. What is a common trigger for synesthetic experiences?**

○ a.) Music and dance

○ b.) Letters and numbers

○ c.) Colors and shapes

**15. Why is synesthesia considered a direct way to study perception?**

○ a.) It is easy to understand

○ b.) It shows how senses can blend

○ c.) It is a common experience

## Transcript

One of the things I study in my lab is called synesthesia, and it represents a blending of the senses. So, we've all heard the word anesthesia, which means no feeling. Synesthesia means joined feeling. So somebody with synesthesia, they might hear music and it causes them to see colors physically, or they might hear something and it puts a taste in their mouth, physically they're experiencing that, or they might, um, uh, eat something and it puts a feeling on their fingertips.

The most common forms of synesthesia, uh, have to do with overlearned sequences, like letters or numbers or weekdays or months, triggering a color experience. So somebody might look at the number six, and that's red to that cede. Or they look at the, the letter J, and that's purple. And it's an internal experience. It's automatic, it's involuntary, and it's unconscious. And to a C, it's just self-evidently true that J is purple.

And, um, it used to be thought this was very rare. The original estimates were one in 20,000, but we now know it's quite common. It's probably up to 4% of the population has some form of synesthesia. There are many different forms, essentially any cross blending of the senses that you can think of, my colleagues and I have found a case somewhere.

So, um, so we now know it's very common, and the reason it's so interesting to me is because it's a very good inroad into understanding how, how different brains can be, can perceive reality differently. So you're sitting here, your neighbor's sitting here, and you're both looking at the same thing, and yet you're seeing the world very differently.

And, uh, it turns out synesthesia is heritable, so my lab is pulling the genes for it right now. And the reason that's so interesting is because it's, it's what I'm calling perceptual genomics, which is to say, how do little genetic changes change the way we perceive reality?

Um, so, you know, and of course most cetes historically have, have lived their whole lives and they may even die without ever suspecting that they're seeing reality differently than someone else, because we all accept the reality presented to us. So synesthesia is a really, um, direct way to look at how individual changes can lead to, uh, different beliefs about reality.