

What is consciousness?

Consciousness: A person's subjective experience of the mind and the external world.

Your conscious perception is subjective

Your conscious perception is the content of your experience

Unattended ear

People cannot report the contents of the message in an unattended ear, but

- They know that there was a message

- They know the gender of the speaker

- Some superficial nature of the speech

Blindsight

Some people lose their vision due to damages to their primary visual cortex

Some find a second sight: Somehow their unconscious mind guides their behaviour correctly.

Conscious perception is limited

Although you see all these things you are only consciously aware of a few things you see.

Binocular rivalry

Two dissimilar images are presented simultaneously to each eye and your conscious perception alternates

Divided attention

Many believe you are not paying attention to many tasks simultaneously, but instead rapidly switching your attention

Expectations: There are some tasks you can do with little attention

Attentional blink: - A brief slow-down in mental processing immediately after progressing another event

- Your brain has limited resources for paying attention

Selective attention

Attending to one thing while ignoring the others

You only consciously experience the content of the text you pay attention to

When you try to ignore the many of the things and events around you to focus on one of them

The stimuli you try to ignore are distractions that must be eliminated or excluded

The mental process of eliminating those distractions is called filtering or selecting

Disorders of visual attention:

Hemispatial neglect: Damage to one hemisphere

Deficit in attention to and awareness of one side of the visual field as if one part of the world were not there



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