GAC029 Psychology II: Introduction to Psychology

GAC Psychology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
psychological experiment /saɪkə'lɒdʒɪkl ek'sperɪmənt/	In a **psychological experiment**, you change one thing and measure behaviour.
Psychology /saɪ'kɒlədʒi/	**Psychology** studies how people think, feel and act.
perspectives /pə'spektɪvz/	People with different **perspectives** spot different problems.
Research methods /rɪ'sɜːtʃ 'meθədz/	Surveys and experiments are **research methods**.
Ethics /'eθɪks/	**Ethics** includes freely given, informed consent in human investigations.
counterbalancing /'kaʊntəbælənsɪŋ/	**Counterbalancing** changes condition order across participants.
emotion /ɪ'məʊʃn/	Fear is a strong **emotion**.
Personality /ˌpɜːsə'nælɪti/	**Personality** is your usual way of thinking, feeling and acting.
Trait theories /treɪt 'θɪəriz/	**Trait theories** describe personality with features like shy or outgoing.
learning approaches /'lɜːnɪŋ ə'prəʊtʃɪz/	**Learning approaches** explain behaviour through rewards and copying others.
Sensation /sen'seɪʃn/	**Sensation** is how our senses pick up light, sound and touch.

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Perception /pə'sepʃn/	**Perception** is how the brain makes sense of what we sense.
Absolute threshold /'æbsəlu:t 'θreʃəʊld/	The **absolute threshold** is the faintest sound you can hear half the time.
difference threshold /'dɪfrəns 'θreʃəʊld/	The **difference threshold** is the smallest change you can notice.
Perceptual constancy /pə'septʃu:əl 'kɒnstənsi/	**Perceptual constancy** lets you know a door is still a rectangle when it opens.
neuron /'nju:rɒn/	A **neuron** carries nerve signals.
synapse /'sɪnæps/	A **synapse** is a small gap between two nerve cells.
neurotransmitters /'nju:rətrænsmɪtəz/	**Neurotransmitters** carry messages between nerve cells.
central nervous system /'sentrəl 'nɜ:vəs 'sɪstəm/	The brain and spinal cord form the **central nervous system**.
peripheral nervous system /pə'rɪfərəl 'nɜ:vəs 'sɪstəm/	The **peripheral nervous system** connects the body to the brain and spinal cord.
cerebral cortex /'serɪbrəl 'kɔ:teks/	The **cerebral cortex** controls memory and language.
Sleep /sli:p/	**Sleep** helps the body and brain recover.
REM sleep /rem sli:p/	Most dreams happen in **REM sleep**.

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