GAC029 Psychology II: Introduction to Psychology

GAC Psychology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
psychological experiment /saɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkl ekˈsperɪmənt/	In a **psychological experiment**, you change one thing and measure behaviour.
Psychology /saɪˈkɒlədʒi/	**Psychology** studies how people think, feel and act.
perspectives /pəˈspektɪvz/	People with different **perspectives** spot different problems.
Research methods /rɪˈsɜːtʃ ˈmeθədz/	Surveys and experiments are **research methods**.
Ethics /ˈeθɪks/	**Ethics** includes freely given, informed consent in human investigations.
counterbalancing /ˈkaʊntəbælənsɪŋ/	**Counterbalancing** changes condition order across participants.
emotion /ɪˈməʊʃn/	Fear is a strong **emotion**.
Personality /ˌpɜːsəˈnælɪti/	**Personality** is your usual way of thinking, feeling and acting.
Trait theories /treɪt ˈθɪəriz/	**Trait theories** describe personality with features like shy or outgoing.
learning approaches /ˈlɜːnɪŋ əˈprəʊtʃɪz/	**Learning approaches** explain behaviour through rewards and copying others.
Sensation /senˈseɪʃn/	**Sensation** is how our senses pick up light, sound and touch.

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Perception /pəˈsepʃn/	**Perception** is how the brain makes sense of what we sense.
Absolute threshold /ˈæbsəluːt ˈθreʃəʊld/	The **absolute threshold** is the faintest sound you can hear half the time.
difference threshold /ˈdɪfrəns ˈθreʃəʊld/	The **difference threshold** is the smallest change you can notice.
Perceptual constancy /pəˈseptʃuːəl ˈkɒnstənsi/	**Perceptual constancy** lets you know a door is still a rectangle when it opens.
neuron /ˈnjuːrɒn/	A **neuron** carries nerve signals.
synapse /ˈsɪnæps/	A **synapse** is a small gap between two nerve cells.
neurotransmitters /ˈnjuːrətrænsmɪtəz/	**Neurotransmitters** carry messages between nerve cells.
central nervous system /ˈsentrəl ˈnɜːvəs ˈsɪstəm/	The brain and spinal cord form the **central nervous system**.
peripheral nervous system /pəˈrɪfərəl ˈnɜːvəs ˈsɪstəm/	The **peripheral nervous system** connects the body to the brain and spinal cord.
cerebral cortex /ˈserɪbrəl ˈkɔːteks/	The **cerebral cortex** controls memory and language.
Sleep /sliːp/	**Sleep** helps the body and brain recover.
REM sleep /rem sliːp/	Most dreams happen in **REM sleep**.