

ORGANS OF SENSES: Words to Know

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| Aqueous humor | Tissue fluid filling the cavity of the eye between the cornea and the lens. |
| Ceruminous glands | Exocrine glands in the skin of the auditory canal of the ear that secrete earwax (cerumen). |
| Chemoreceptors | Receptors sensitive to various chemicals substances. |
| Choroid | Middle, pigmented layer of the eye. |
| Ciliary body | Circular muscle that surrounds the edge of the lens of the eye and changes the shape of the lens. |
| Cochlea | Spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that contains the receptors for hearing in the organ of Corti. |
| Cones | Photoreceptors in the retina of the eye that detect colours. |
| Cornea | Transparent front part of the sclera of the eye. |
| Conjunctiva | Mucous membrane lining the eyelids and covering the front surface of the eyeball. |
| Eardrum | Thin membrane at the end of the outer ear that vibrates when sound waves strike it. |
| Eustachian tube | Slender air passage between the middle ear cavity and the pharynx, which equalizes air pressure on the two sides of the eardrum. |
| External auditory canal | Also called the ear canal, the tunnel in the ear between the pinna and eardrum. |
| Gustatory cells | Chemoreceptors located within taste buds. |
| Iris | Pigmented (colored) part of the eye between the cornea and lens made of two sets of smooth muscle fibers. |
| Lacrimal gland | Gland located at the upper, outer corner of each eyeball that secretes tears. |
| Lens | Clear, oval, flexible structure behind the pupil in the eye that changes shape for the focusing of light rays. |
| Mechanoreceptors | Receptors sensitive to mechanical or physical pressures such as sound and touch. |
| Olfactory epithelium | Section of mucous membrane in the roof of the nasal cavity that contains odor-sensitive olfactory nerve cells. |
| Organ of Corti | Structure in the cochlea of the inner ear that contains the receptors for hearing. |
| Ossicles | Three bones of the middle ear: hammer, anvil, and stirrup. |
| Papillae | Projections on the tongue that contain taste buds. |
| Photoreceptors | Receptors sensitive to light. |
| Pinna | Commonly referred to as the ear, the outer, flaplike portion of the ear. |
| Pupil | Opening in the center of the iris through which light passes. |
| Retina | Innermost layer of the eyeball that contains the photoreceptors—the rods and cones. |
| Rods | Photoreceptors in the retina of the eye that detect the presence of light. |
| Sclera | Outermost layer of the eyeball, made of connective tissue. |
| Semicircular canals | Three oval canals in the inner ear that help to maintain balance. |
| Taste buds | Structures on the papillae of the tongue that contain chemoreceptors that respond to chemicals dissolved in saliva. |
| Utricle | Membranous sac in the vestibule of the inner ear that contains receptors for the sense of balance. |
| Vestibule | Bony chamber of the inner ear that contains the utricle and the saccule (the smaller of two membranous sacs in the vestibule of the inner ear). |
| Vitreous humor | Transparent, gellike substance that fills the cavity of the eye behind the lens. |

Words necessary to know.

Words **not** necessary to know.