

Lesson Plan

NEUROHEADWAY

Neuroscience Into Education

Slide	Subject	Description	Timing
1	Introduction	Register pupils	2 min
2	Introduction to Social Perceptions	‘What are Social Perceptions?’ Explain from the slide and ask the students for ideas of some examples of perceptions. Make a note of them on the board.	2 min
3 - 4	Discussion	Explain how our senses play a major part in Social Perceptions. Most obviously is when we see something. Ask students to give examples of any others when they, say, meet a new person or go to a new place.	5 min
5	Activity	Ask the students to write down their thoughts and perceptions of 5 people in their class when they first met them. Then, if those perceptions differ after having known each other a while. Students can share if they wish to.	15 min
6-7	Perception	Discuss our impressions of things which are not people – ie. Animals, objects, places. How we form impressions of almost everything. But how we can be wrong sometimes in our assumptions!	10 min

Power point Example

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What is **Social Perception**?

Social perception (or person **perception**) is the study of how people form impressions of and make inferences (conclusions) about other people.

People learn about others' feelings and emotions by picking up information they gather from physical appearance, verbal, and nonverbal communication.



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How do we 'perceive'?

First of all, we respond to our senses when encountering something or someone.



In the case of social behaviour, these stimulations are usually **other people** and their **conduct**.



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Let's Think...

Take a look around your classroom now at your friends, other classmates, your teacher. Can you remember when you met them for the first time? Can you remember your VERY first impression (ie. What you thought of them at first sight)?

Write down a list of five people and what you remember about first meeting them.

Think about this for five minutes – then, write another list of how you think of these people now – is it any different than when you first met? How important do you think first impressions are?



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But what about things, not just people?

The perception of people has certain features that distinguish it from the perception of objects:

Simply put – we can get impressions and perceptions of all sorts of things, not just people. When we see a lion, we presume it is dangerous. When we see the sun, we can perceive warmth. However, when we see people, it is sometimes not so obvious.



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Because - We are all **Unique!**

Remember that the same qualities in people (same height, etc) don't mean that people are 'the same'.

Twins, for example, may **look** the same but can have very different personalities, likes, dislikes, etc.



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What did you think...

- ...of the assumptions the character made? Did you agree with them?
- Do you tend to make these same assumptions?
- Do you think they are based on what you have been taught to believe?
- Where do we learn our beliefs from and do you think it is a good idea to always trust them?



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Perception of others

Often, we might think that what we believe is automatically true – because it is what we have always believed. For example – if you see someone dressed in a firefighter's uniform – you probably presume they are a firefighter.

But broaden your mind. What if he or she is a shopkeeper – on their way to a fancy dress party? Sometimes there are other explanations for what we believe we see - and often presume. Can you think of any other examples?



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The perception of people involves a dynamic interaction, where the expectations and behaviour of the perceiver can affect the behaviour of the perceived person, in a circular process.

For example, it can sometimes be very easy to make incorrect presumptions about people based on their appearance. Then, your reactions towards that person may affect the way they perceive YOU. See how things can get very complicated if we rely on our perceptions alone?



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Teachers Evaluation and Handouts

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Vocabulary – SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS

Choose ten of these words and write the meaning from what you remember from the lesson.

Social	Perception	Impression
Infer	Conclude	Nonverbal
Stimulations	Unique	Personality
Appearance	Belief	Opinion
Assume	Behaviour	Attribution
Trait	Accentuate	Prejudice
Effect	Stimuli	Stereotype

WORD	MEANING

WORDSEARCH – SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS

Y S A W O P F T R E J N G S R
E T O P V P C E C W O T T A U
M I I R P E I I I I X E N A O
U M J L F E D N T L R M O C I
S U T F A U A P I E E S I C V
S L E R J N E R O O O B T E A
A I T E A C O T A C N M U N H
K D R N R I Y S I N B E B T E
O P K E F P T A R M C N I U B
C R P S E F L E P E A E R A N
L A B R E V N O N V P A T T S
S N O I T A L U M I T S T E V
C O N C L U D E C T Z U A D H
X M I N F E R Q D E U Q I N U
I M P R E S S I O N R W X F V

ACCENTUATE

ATTRIBUTION

CONCLUDE

INFER

PERCEPTION

SOCIAL

STIMULI

APPEARANCE

BEHAVIOUR

EFFECT

NONVERBAL

PERSONALITY

STEREOTYPE

TRAIT

ASSUME

BELIEF

IMPRESSION

OPINION

PREJUDICE

STIMULATIONS

UNIQUE