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| Selective Attention | The focussing of conscious awareness on a particular stimulus (as in the cocktail party effect) |
| Cocktail Party Effect | The ability to only attend to one voice among many (priority to those talking directly at you) |
| Inattentional Blindness | Failing to see visible objects when our attention is directed elsewhere (eg. change blindness, change deafness, choice blindness, choice-blindness blindness) |
| Visual Capture | The tendency for vision to dominate the other senses |
| Gestalt | An organized whole. Gestalt psychologists emphasized our tendency to integrate pieces of information into meaningful wholes |
| Figure-ground | The organization of the visual field into objects (the “figures”) that stand out from their surroundings (the “ground”) |
| Grouping | The perceptual tendency to organize stimuli into coherent groups (Proximity, Similarity, Continuity, Connectedness, Closure) |
| Proximity | We group nearby figures together |
| Similarity | We group together figures that are similar to each other |
| Continuity | We perceive smooth, continuous patterns rather than discontinuous ones |
| Connectedness | We perceive uniform and linked patterns |
| Closure | We fill in gaps to create a complete, whole object |
| Depth Perception | The ability to see objects in three dimensions although images that strike the retina are two-dimensional (allows us to judge distance) |
| Visual Cliff | A laboratory device for testing depth perception in infants and young animals |
| Binocular Cues | Depth cues that depend on the use of two eyes (such as retinal disparity and convergence) |
| -Retinal Disparity | A binocular cue for perceiving depth: by comparing images from the two eyeballs, the brain computes distance (the greater the disparity/difference, the closer the object) |
| -Convergence | A binocular cue for perceiving depth – The extent to which eyes converge inward when looking at an object (the greater the inward strain, the closer the object) |
| Monocular Cues | Depth cues available to either eye alone (such as relative size, interposition, relative clarity, texture gradient, relative height, relative motion, linear perspective, and light and shadow) |
| -Relative Size | If we assume two objects are similar in size, we perceive the one that casts the smaller retinal image as farther away |
| -Interposition | If one object partially blocks our view of another, we perceive it as closer |

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| -Relative Clarity | Because light from distant objects passes through more atmosphere, we perceive hazy objects as farther away than sharp, clear objects |
| -Texture Gradient | A gradual change from a coarse, distinct texture to a fine, indistinct texture signals increasing distance |
| -Relative Height | We perceive objects higher in our field of vision as farther away |
| -Relative Motion (Motion Parallax) | As we move, objects that are actually stable may appear to move and the nearer the object is to you, the faster it seems to move |
| -Linear Perspective | Parallel lines appear to converge with distance. The more the lines converge, the greater their perceived distance |
| -Light and Shadow | Nearby objects reflect more in our eyes. Given two identical objects, the dimmer one seems farther away |
| Stroboscopic Movement | The brain will perceive continuous movement in a rapid series of slightly varying images |
| Phi Phenomenon | An illusion of movement created when two or more adjacent lights blink on and off in quick succession |
| Perceptual Constancy | Perceiving objects as unchanging even as illumination and retinal images change |
| Shape Constancy | We perceive the form of familiar objects as constant even when our retinal images of them change |
| Size Constancy | We perceive objects as having a constant size, even while our distance from them varies |
| Moon Illusion | The moon seems farther away when seen in the sky as opposed to when it is seen on the horizon |
| Lightness Constancy/Brightness Constancy | We perceive an object as having a constant lightness even while its illumination varies |
| Relative Luminance | The amount of light an object reflects relative to its surroundings (similar to color constancy) |
| Perceptual Adaption | In vision, the ability to adjust to an artificially displaced or even inverted visual field |
| Perceptual Set | A mental predisposition to perceive one thing and not another |
| Human Factors Psychologists | A branch of psychology that explores how people and machines interact and how machines and physical environments can be made safe and easy to use |
| Extrasensory Perception (ESP) | The controversial claim that perception can occur apart from sensory input (said to include telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition) |
| Telepathy | Mind-to-mind communication; one person sending thoughts to another or perceiving another's thoughts |
| Clairvoyance | Perceiving remote/distant events |
| Precognition | Perceiving future events |

Parapsychology

The study of paranormal phenomena including ESP and psychokinesis