

BLM 10.3

WAYS OF KNOWING: PERCEPTION

Literacy connections: What does our language—our terms of approbation or praise—tell us about the status of our various sensory, cognitive, and speech capabilities? Complete the following chart (which you may expand) by inserting words that convey positive attributes we associate with intelligence or facility. A sample is given to get you started; negative terms are given at the bottom for contrast.

Words that convey positive attributes for being “clued in”						
Smell	Touch and kinaesthetic ability	Sound	Sight	Speech	Reason	Taste
a nose for it	apprehension	attuned	perspicuous	loquacious	intelligent	sweet
Words that convey negative attributes for being “clueless”						
	out of touch; clumsy; imbecilic or feeble; not agile or not dextrous; no grasp	deaf; discordant; disharmonious; not attuned; not keen	blind; myopic; lacking insight or conscience; not keen; unobservant	dumb; idiomatic; ineloquent; not fluent; foolish (wind bag)	idiotic; moronic; pusillanimous (tiny mind); stupid (stupefied or stunned); unsophisticated	bitter

Question: Why is the olfactory sense undervalued in our terms of approbation?

