



Neil Harbisson:

I listen to color (Ted Talk)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygRNoieAnzl&ab_channel=TED

Watch the video and complete the exercises

Complete with:

Black and white, favourite colours, visual condition, colour frequency, hear colour, perception, grayscale, bone conduction, colour blindness, dream in colours

Well, I was born with a rare _____ called achromatopsia, which is total _____, so I've never seen color, and I don't know what color looks like, because I come from a _____ world. To me, the sky is always gray, flowers are always gray, and television is still in _____.

00:21

But, since the age of 21, instead of seeing color, I can _____. In 2003, I started a project with computer scientist Adam Montandon, and the result, with further collaborations with Peter Kese from Slovenia and Matias Lizana from Barcelona, is this electronic eye. It's a color sensor that detects the _____ in front of me and sends this frequency to a chip installed at the back of my head, and I hear the color in front of me through the bone, through _____. So, for example, if I have, like — This is the sound of purple. For example, this is the sound of grass. This is red, like TED. This is the sound of a dirty sock. Which is like yellow, this one.

01:24

So I've been hearing color all the time for eight years, since 2004, so I find it completely normal now to hear color all the time. At the start, though, I had to memorize the names you give for each color, so I had to memorize the notes, but after some time, all this information became a _____. I didn't have to think about the notes. And after some time, this perception became a feeling. I started to have _____, and I started to _____.



Use the correct verb form – „to“ *inf*, *inf* or *-ing*

01:52

So, when I started _____ (*dream*) in color is when I felt that the software and my brain had united, because in my dreams, it was my brain _____ (*create*) electronic sounds. It wasn't the software, so that's when I started _____ (*feel*) like a cyborg. It's when I started _____ (*feel*) that the cybernetic device was no longer a device. It had become a part of my body, an extension of my senses, and after some time, it even became a part of my official image.

02:24

This is my passport from 2004. You're not allowed _____ (*appear*) on U.K. passports with electronic equipment, but I insisted to the passport office that what they were seeing was actually a new part of my body, an extension of my brain, and they finally accepted me to appear with the passport photo.

02:43

So, life has changed dramatically since I hear color, because color is almost everywhere, so the biggest change for example is _____ (*go*) to an art gallery, I can _____ (*listen*) to a Picasso, for example. So it's like I'm going to a concert hall, because I can _____ (*listen*) to the paintings. And supermarkets, I find this is very shocking, it's very, very attractive _____ (*walk*) along a supermarket. It's like _____ (*go*) to a nightclub. It's full of different melodies. Yeah. Especially the aisle with cleaning products. It's just fabulous.

03:18

Also, the way I dress has changed. Before, I used _____ (*dress*) in a way that it looked good. Now I dress in a way that it sounds good.

03:27



Fill in a suitable expression (1 word)

03:32

So today I'm dressed in C major, so it's quite a happy chord. If I _____ to go to a funeral, though, I _____ dress in B minor, which would be turquoise, purple and orange.

03:51

Also, food, the way I look at food _____ changed, because now I can display the food on a plate, so I can eat my favorite song. (Laughter) So depending on _____ I display it, I can hear and I can compose music with food. So imagine _____ restaurant where we can have, like, Lady Gaga salads as starters. (Laughter) I mean, this would get teenagers to eat their _____, probably. And also, some Rachmaninov piano concertos as main dishes, and some Bjork or Madonna desserts, that would be a very _____ restaurant where you can actually eat songs.

04:27

Also, the way I perceive beauty has changed, _____ when I look at someone, I hear their face, so someone might look very beautiful but sound _____. And it might happen the opposite, the other way _____. So I really enjoy creating, like, sound portraits of people. Instead _____ drawing someone's face, like drawing the shape, I point at them with the eye and I write down the _____ notes I hear, and then I create sound portraits. Here's some faces.

04:58

(Musical chords)

05:13

Yeah, Nicole Kidman sounds good.

05:16

Some people, I would never relate, but they sound _____. Prince Charles has some similarities with Nicole Kidman. They have similar sound of _____.

05:24

So you relate people that you wouldn't relate, and you can _____ also create concerts by looking at the audience faces. So I connect the eye, and then I play the audience's faces. The good thing about this is, if the concert _____ sound good, it's their fault. It's not my fault, because...



Use the correct form of the word – noun/adjective/adverb/verb

05:42

And so another thing that happens is that I started having this **second** _____ effect that normal sounds started to become color. I heard a telephone tone, and it felt green because it sounded just like the color green. The BBC beeps, they sound turquoise, and listening to Mozart became a yellow experience,

06:05

so I started to paint music and paint people's voices, because people's voices have **frequent** _____ that I relate to color.

06:13

And here's some music translated into color. For example, Mozart, "Queen of the Night," looks like this. Very yellow and very colorful, because there's many different frequencies. And this is a **complete** _____ different song. It's Justin Bieber's "Baby." It is very pink and very yellow.

06:43

So, also voices, I can transform **speak** _____ into color, for example, these are two very well-known _____. One of them is Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream," and the other one is Hitler. And I like to exhibit these paintings in the **exhibit** _____ halls without labels, and then I ask people, "Which one do you prefer?" And most people change their **prefer** _____ when I tell them that the one on the left is Hitler and the one on the right is Martin Luther King.



Choose the correct expression

07:15

So I got to a point when I was able to **see/perceive** 360 colors, just like human vision. I was able to differentiate all the degrees of the color wheel. But then, I just thought that this human vision wasn't **good enough/enough good**. There's many, many more colors around us that we cannot perceive, but that electronic eyes can perceive. So I decided to continue extending my color senses, and I added **infrasauna/infrared** and I added ultraviolet to the color-to-sound scale, so now I can hear colors that the human eye cannot perceive.

07:51

For example, perceiving infrared is good because you can actually detect if there's movement detectors in a room. I can hear if someone points **to/at** me with a remote control. And the good thing about perceiving ultraviolet is that you can hear if it's a good day or a bad day to sunbathe, because ultraviolet is a dangerous color, a color that can actually kill us, so I think we **would/should** all have this wish to perceive things that we cannot perceive.

Last but not least – prepositions

08:19

That's why, two years ago, I created the Cyborg Foundation, which is a foundation that tries to help people become a cyborg, tries to encourage people to extend their senses _____ using technology _____ part _____ the body.

08:32

We should all think that knowledge comes _____ our senses, so if we extend our senses, we will consequently extend our knowledge. I think life will be much more exciting when we stop creating applications _____ mobile phones and we start creating applications _____ our own body. I think this will be a big, big change that we will see _____ this century.

08:54

So I do encourage you all to think _____ which senses you'd like to extend. I would encourage you to become a cyborg. You won't be alone. Thank you.