

Our Five Senses



taste



smell



touch



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Our Five Senses



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Our Five Senses

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The Sensational Carnival!

Alyssa and Aunt Erica arrive at the carnival. *CLUNK-DING-SPLASH!* A boy hits the dunking booth target with a baseball. Lights above the booth suddenly flash in many colors. The clown in the booth drops into the water. People cheer.

Alyssa is close enough to the dunking booth that some water splashes on her. She squeals. The water is cold! But it doesn't spoil her fun. It is a warm day, and she will dry off quickly.



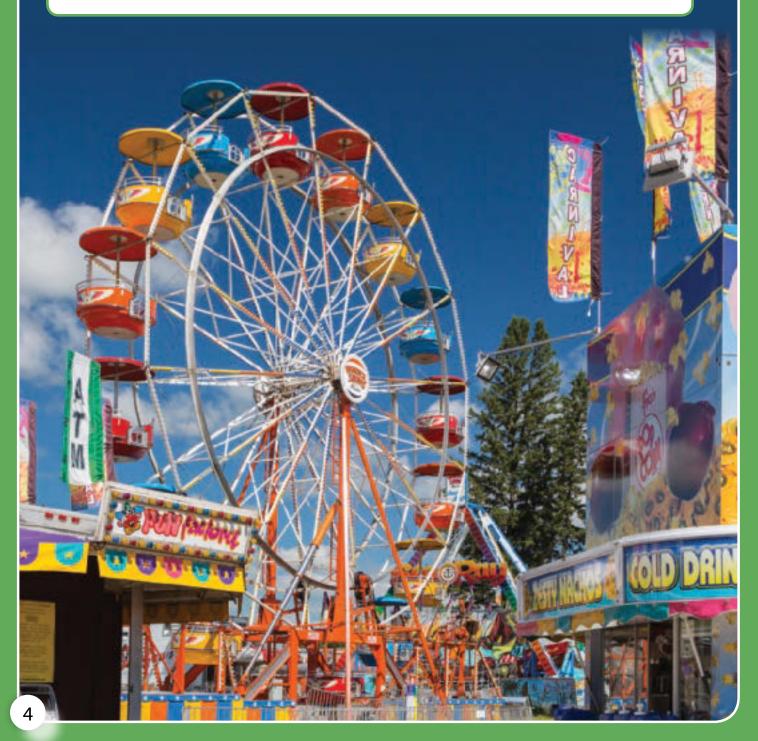
"What do you want to do first?" Aunt Erica asks Alyssa.

"Ride the merry-go-round!" Alyssa shouts. But she changes her mind right away. "No, win a blue fuzzy bear! No, eat cotton candy!"

"I don't know," Alyssa replies with a smile and wide eyes. "There are too many choices!"



Alyssa wants to ride the rides with their flashing lights. She sees people in the crowd carrying fun prizes they have won. Alyssa wants to play the games, too. Other people pass by carrying treats that smell delicious. She wants to taste them for herself!



"I have an idea," says Aunt Erica. "Let's walk all around the carnival before we decide what to do. We can see all the sights first so that you know what your choices are. Then you can decide what to do first."

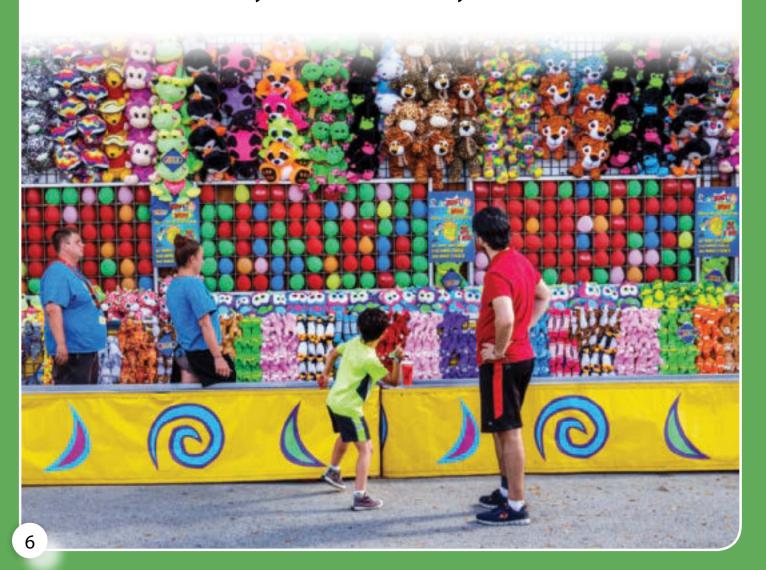
Alyssa likes this idea. The carnival is a noisy and bright and colorful place. There is so much to discover!

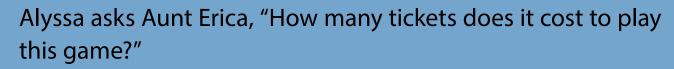


Your Sense of Sight

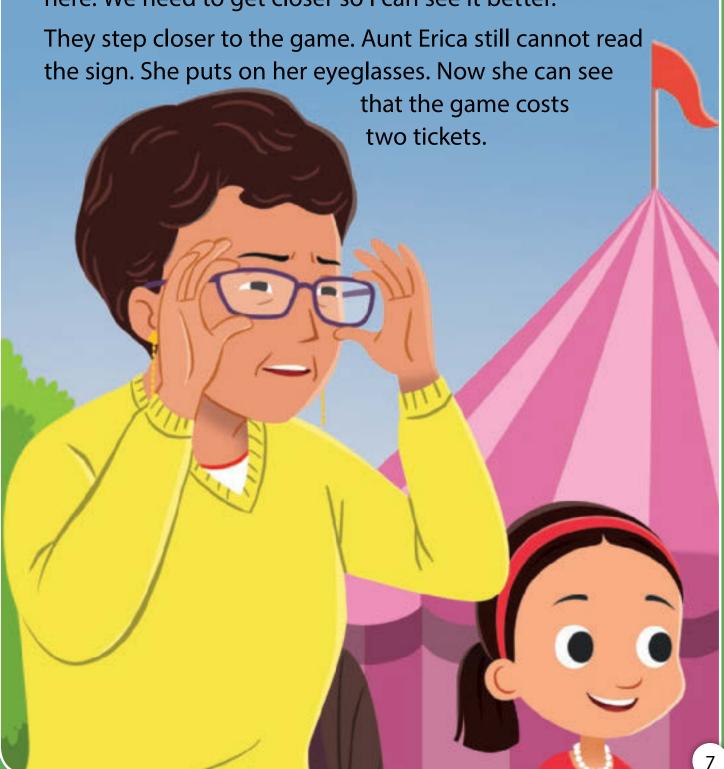
Alyssa can tell a lot about the carnival balloon game using her eyes. She watches and figures out how to play.

She sees that the player throws a dart to try to pop a balloon. Popping a red balloon wins a small prize. Popping a balloon of another color wins a bigger prize. Popping a yellow balloon wins the biggest prize. Alyssa sees prizes of different sizes and in many colors. They look soft and fuzzy.





"I don't know," Aunt Erica replies. "I can't read the sign from here. We need to get closer so I can see it better."



Alyssa and Aunt Erica learned about the balloon game using their sense of sight. Senses are the ways in which parts of your body tell you about your surroundings. Your sense of sight is your ability to see. Sight is also called vision.

Eyes are the body parts that enable vision. You see because your eyes detect light.



What can you tell about your surroundings using your eyes?

Eyes can see if the surface of an object is shiny, dull, smooth, or rough.

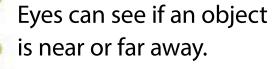


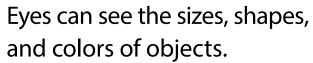
Eyes can see pictures and patterns. Eyes can see letters and numbers.





Eyes can see if an object is still or moving.

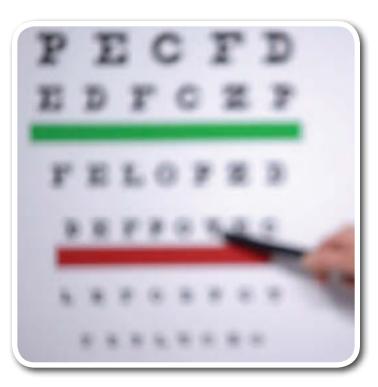






Things look blurry to some people. Their eyes do not create clear vision. Eyeglasses can make their vision clearer.

Some people are not able to see at all. Not being able to see is called blindness. People who are blind find other ways to sense their surroundings. For example, braille is a system for reading using bumps to represent letters. A blind reader can read by feeling the bumps.





It is important to protect your eyes and your sense of sight. Looking too directly at bright light is bad for eyes. Wear sunglasses outdoors on bright, sunny days. And never look directly at the sun.

Wearing goggles or safety glasses is important during tasks that could cause particles to get into your eyes.

Also, try not to rub or touch your eyes. Touching your eyes can let germs into your body that can make you sick.





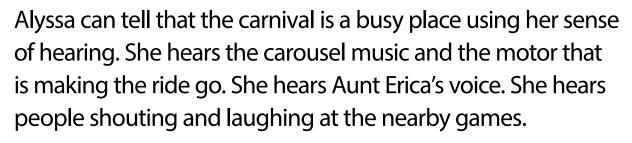


Your Sense of Hearing

The carnival's carousel grabs Alyssa's attention next. The ride's pretty horses carry riders around and around. Alyssa notices that music is coming from the center of the carousel.

"That is a pipe organ," Aunt Erica explains. She shouts because the music is very loud. "It is a musical instrument played by steam."





Ears are the body parts that enable hearing. You hear because your ears detect sound.



What can you tell about your surroundings using your ears?

You can hear voices and understand language.

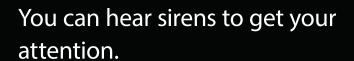


You can hear doors open and close.





You can hear music.



You can hear alarms to wake you up or alert you to danger.



FIRE ALARM

PULL HOOK
DOWN ONCE

You can hear the difference between loud and soft sounds.



You can hear the difference between high and low sounds. Some people do not hear sounds clearly. Their ears do not function to provide good hearing. Hearing aids can make their hearing clearer.

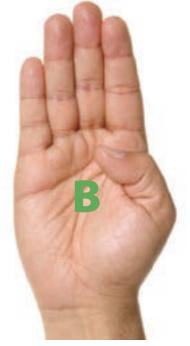
Some people are not able to hear at all. Not being able to hear is



called deafness. People with poor hearing or who are deaf find other ways to sense their surroundings.

For example, sign language is a system of hand gestures that represent letters and words. A deaf person can use sign language to communicate instead of hearing the sounds of spoken words.







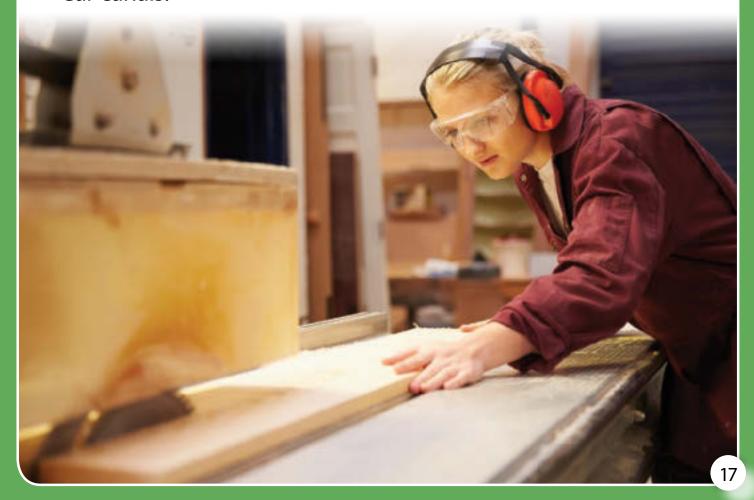
It is important to protect your ears and your sense of hearing.

Sounds that are too loud can damage your ears.
Music can be too loud for ear safety. So can machine engines and power tools.



Wearing earplugs or earmuffs to cover your ears protects your ears from loud noises.

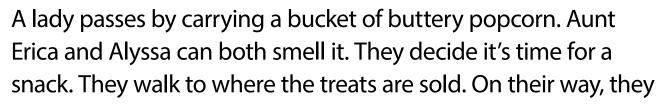
Never stick objects other than soft earplugs into your ear canals.



Your Sense of Smell

In addition to the rides and games at the carnival, Alyssa also looks at the other visitors. People are walking in all directions. Many are carrying snacks. The snacks look tasty and smell good!





pass a girl carrying a caramel apple with sprinkles. It smells sweet. They pass a man with a slice of pizza. It smells spicy.



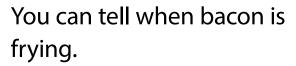
Your sense of smell is your ability to detect scent. Scents are also called aromas, odors, or fragrances. Your nose is the body part that enables your sense of smell.

Scents from different substances spread into the air. When you breathe in through your nose, your nose can detect scents in the air.



What can you tell about your surroundings using your nose? You can identify many foods by their smells without seeing or even being in the same room as the foods.

You can tell when chocolate chip cookies are baking.







Outdoors, you can tell when a skunk is near.

You can tell when there is fire burning nearby.





SAFETY

If you smell smoke indoors, it could be an emergency. Tell an adult right away!

You can tell many flowers apart by their scents.

You can identify plants called herbs by the way they smell, too.







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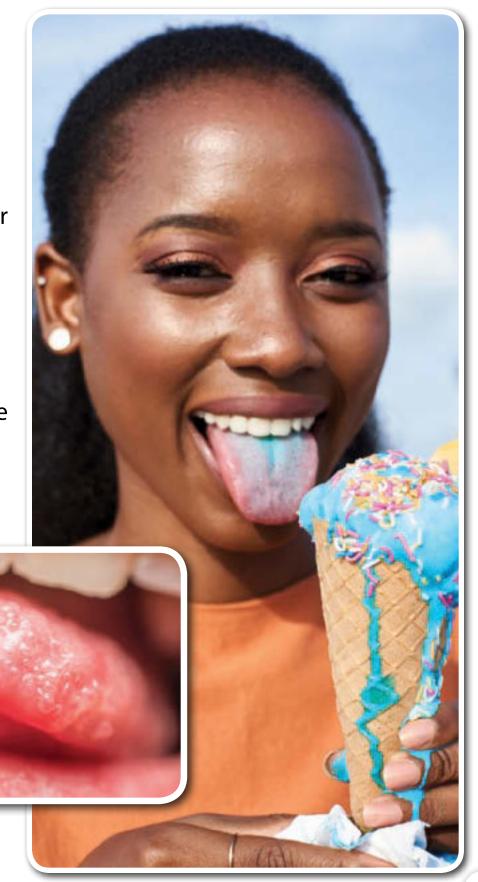
Your Sense of Taste

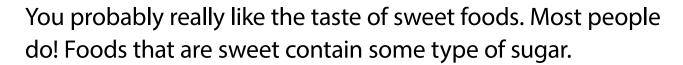
Alyssa and Aunt Erica are at the carnival food court. Alyssa wants something salty. She thinks the giant soft pretzels look tasty. Aunt Erica wants

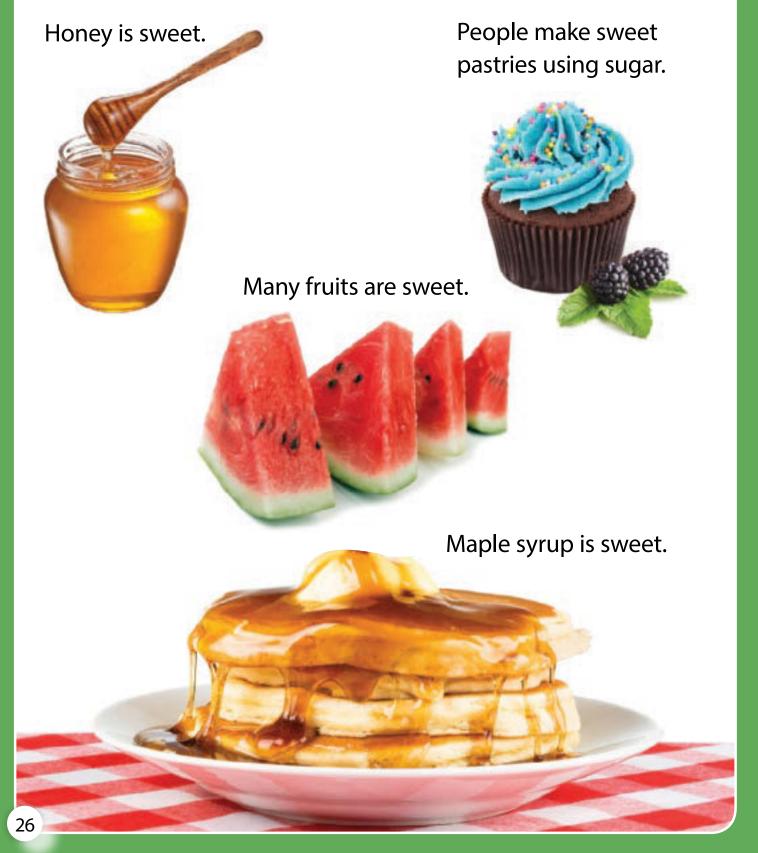
something that is both tart and sweet.
She will have a candied green apple.



Your sense of taste is your ability to detect flavor. Your tongue is the body part that tastes flavors. Your tongue is covered with little bumps called taste buds. The taste buds on different parts of your tongue sense different flavors.







People often add salt to the meats, vegetables, and soups that they eat.

A lot of snack foods are salty. Potato chips, popcorn, and pretzels are often salty.





Many fruits are sweet, but several are sour.

Bitterness is a flavor that many people do not like very much.

Lemons and limes are sour.



Grapefruit has a bitter flavor.



Some types of cherries are sour. Tart is another word that describes sour cherries.



Cocoa powder without sugar is also bitter.



SAFETY

It can be dangerous to taste or eat substances that you do not know for sure are safe. Do not taste or eat anything that is not given to you by the adult who is taking care of you. These are some symbols that indicate something is very dangerous.



Your Sense of Touch

As evening falls, it is getting cool outside at the carnival. Aunt Erica loans her sweater to Alyssa. The sweater looks soft and warm.

Alyssa is happy that the sweater feels warm. However, she also thinks it feels a little itchy.



Playing games takes Alyssa's mind off the itchy sweater. She rolls balls up a lane one at a time. The balls feel hard, smooth, heavy, and cool when Alyssa touches them.

She scores enough points to win a prize! Alyssa chooses a soft, fluffy sheep. Alyssa would be able to tell one of the game balls and her prize sheep apart even with her eyes closed. They feel different to touch.





Your sense of touch is your ability to detect details about objects by contacting them. Your skin, especially on your hands, is the body part that enables your sense of touch. The skin is full of nerves that can detect if something is rough, smooth, hot, or cold or if something is pressing on it.



What can you tell about objects using your sense of touch? You can tell when surfaces are smooth or rough. You can tell when something is cold, cool, warm, or hot.









Feeling pressure allows you to tell whether objects are light or heavy. Detecting pressure lets you feel if something brushes against you.







Pain is part of your sense of touch. Pain is your body's way of telling you that something is injuring you. For example, if you touch something that is too hot, you will feel pain and pull away to keep from getting burned.

If you get a splinter, the pain lets you know that something has pierced your skin. If you scrape your elbow, it hurts!

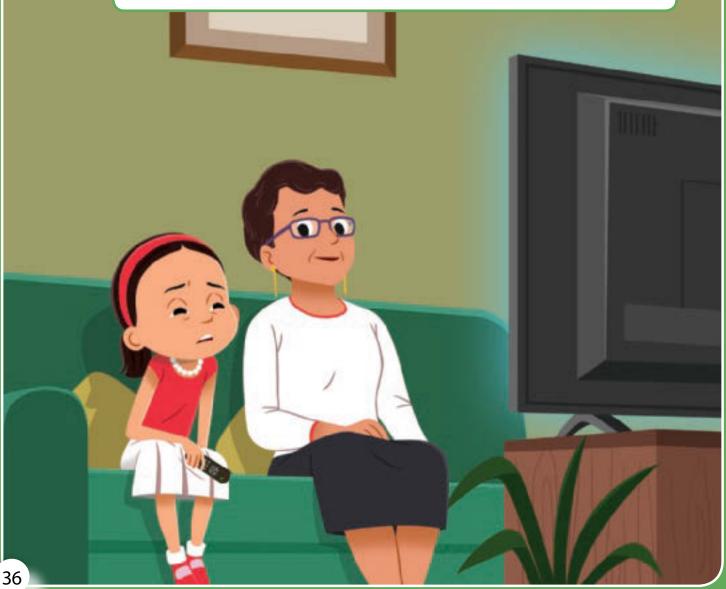


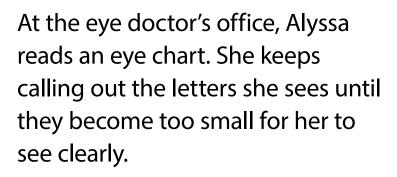
Science in Action

A Visit to the Eye Doctor

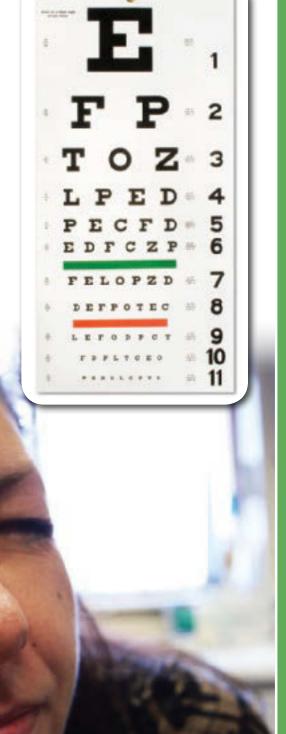
A few days after the carnival, Alyssa has her first visit to an eye doctor. Alyssa was squinting while she was watching television. Aunt Erica wonders if Alyssa might need eyeglasses.

Aunt Erica has several pairs of eyeglasses herself. She knows that eyeglasses can make it easier to see.





Then the eye doctor looks through a lens that lets her see into the inside of Alyssa's eyeballs. This device has a bright light that makes Alyssa see spots for a few minutes.



Next the eye doctor asks Alyssa to read the eye chart again through a big machine with changing lenses. The doctor switches back and forth between two lenses at a time and asks Alyssa which of the two makes the chart look clearest. Many of the choices make the letters on the chart blurry. But the last set of lenses makes the letters crisp and clear for Alyssa. "This is the prescription for your new eyeglass lenses," the doctor says.

Now Alyssa gets to do the fun part. She chooses the frames for her lenses.



Aunt Erica changes her own glasses to read the notes the doctor gives her. Aunt Erica wears one pair of glasses so she can see faraway things clearly. But she needs different glasses, reading glasses, to focus on letters up close.

"It looks like it's time for someone else to get new glasses, too," the eye doctor says to Aunt Erica. "You need bifocals."



Some people have difficulty focusing their eyes clearly on objects up close. Some people have difficulty focusing their

eyes on objects far away. And some people have difficulty seeing objects both up close and far away.

Bifocals are glasses that have two different lenses for each eye. The bottom part of each lens helps the eye focus on things up close. The top part of each lens helps the eye focus on objects far away.



Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was one of the people who helped form the United States as a new nation. He was also a discoverer

and an inventor. One of his famous inventions was bifocal eyeglasses.

Benjamin Franklin invented eyeglasses to meet his own need. His eyes needed correction for both his distance vision and his reading vision.

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