

cognitive-illusions.ga

## Description

An **illusion** is a distortion of the [senses](#), which can reveal how the [human brain](#) normally organizes and interprets sensory stimulation. Though illusions distort our perception of reality, they are generally shared by most people.<sup>[1]</sup>

Illusions may occur with any of the human senses, but visual illusions ([optical illusions](#)) are the best-known and understood. The emphasis on visual illusions occurs because [vision](#) often dominates the other senses. For example, individuals watching a [ventriloquist](#) will perceive the voice is coming from the dummy since they are able to see the dummy mouth the words.<sup>[2]</sup>

Some illusions are based on general assumptions the brain makes during [perception](#). These assumptions are made using organizational principles (e.g., [Gestalt](#) theory), an individual's capacity for [depth perception](#) and motion perception, and [perceptual constancy](#). Other illusions occur because of biological sensory structures within the [human body](#) or conditions outside the body within one's physical environment.

The term *illusion* refers to a specific form of sensory distortion. Unlike a [hallucination](#), which is a distortion in the absence of a stimulus, an illusion describes a misinterpretation of a true sensation. For example, hearing voices regardless of the environment would be a hallucination, whereas hearing voices in the sound of running water (or other auditory source) would be an illusion.

## Category

1. External Domains

## Date Created

29. November 2018

## Author

web45