

1 Wake up your senses!

LISTENING

Power up

- 1 Work in groups. Which of your five senses (touch, sight, smell, taste and hearing) do you experience when doing these activities? Which is the strongest sense in each case?

learning to windsurf talking to a friend
playing the guitar going shopping

- 2 Look at the image on the page representing synaesthesia. What do you think synaesthesia is?

Listen up

- 3  1.4 Listen to a girl talking about her experience of having synaesthesia. What is synaesthesia? Were your guesses in Ex 2 correct?
- 4 Read the exam tip. Look at the other gaps in the task. What part of speech do you think is missing?

exam tip: sentence completion

Before you listen, read the sentences carefully. Decide what kind of information you need to listen out for. For example, a noun, adjective + noun, adjective, noun phrase. Wait until you hear all the information for each part before completing the gap.

Look at gap 1 in Ex 5. What part of speech do you think is missing – a noun, verb or adjective?

- 5  1.5 Listen again and complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Synaesthesia

Rachel is disappointed that she only discovered the ¹ of her condition recently.

Rachel was delighted with a ² which gave her useful information about her condition.

Rachel says that ³ music makes her see dark colours.

Rachel likes the idea of experiencing different ⁴ when hearing different sounds, which she doesn't do.

Rachel used to amuse ⁵ by telling them what colour their name was.

Experts say that synaesthesia first develops in a person during ⁶

Rachel agrees with the idea that people with synaesthesia are generally better at ⁷ subjects.

Rachel was surprised at how many ⁸ painters and composers have the condition.

The strength of Rachel's synaesthesia is increased when she feels ⁹

Rachel gives the example of ¹⁰ as a noise that can affect her concentration.

- 6 Read the sentences. What do the highlighted words or phrases mean? Can you think of other sentences using these words?

- 1 I even went to **seminars** on the subject.
- 2 I'm not sure my parents always **approved** when I'd tell someone their name was a yucky brown!
- 3 They **have concluded** that women are more likely to have it than men.
- 4 **Apparently**, people with synaesthesia are often not as good as our peers at subjects such as maths or science.
- 5 You see my synaesthesia **is affected by** my mood or emotions.
- 6 All in all though, I do feel it's a **gift** and I can't imagine life without my synaesthesia.

Speak up

- 7 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Which is your most and least important sense?
- 2 If you were able to strengthen one of your senses, which would it be and why?