

Reading

Life without smell or taste

Duncan Glover lost his sense of smell in 2005 after falling and hurting his head. 'It leaves you feeling like you aren't connected to the world anymore,' he says.

The loss of taste, known as *ageusia*, is rare, say experts. Most people who think they have lost their sense of taste have actually lost their sense of smell.

Mary Moorefield lost her sense of smell three years ago after having the flu. 'It's things like smelling flowers in my garden. When you can't smell them, you realize just how much you miss it,' she says.

Losing your sense of smell can also be very dangerous, as Luke Carr found out. He lost his sense of smell when he was eight years old. 'When I was at university, someone left the gas cooker turned on by mistake. When my friends returned in the evening, I was feeling very sleepy, but they smelled it straight away,' he explains.

'Losing your sense of smell can leave people feeling unhappy for much longer than people who lose their sight,' says Professor Brian Fox, researcher at the Centre for the Study of the Senses.

7 Read the blog. Then choose the correct words. (10 marks)

1. Duncan lost his sense of **taste / smell** after falling and hurting his head.
2. Duncan feels **more / less** connected to the world.
3. Ageusia is the loss of the sense of **sight / taste**.
4. Many people who have lost their sense of **smell / sight** think they have lost their sense of taste.
5. Mary Moorefield lost her sense of smell after **an accident / being ill**.
6. Luke Carr lost his sense of smell when he was a **child / at university**.
7. Luke's flatmate had left the gas **cooker / fire** on.
8. Luke was feeling **ill / sleepy** because of the gas.
9. Luke's flatmates could **hear / smell** the gas.
10. People can feel **sad / angry** after losing their sense of smell

