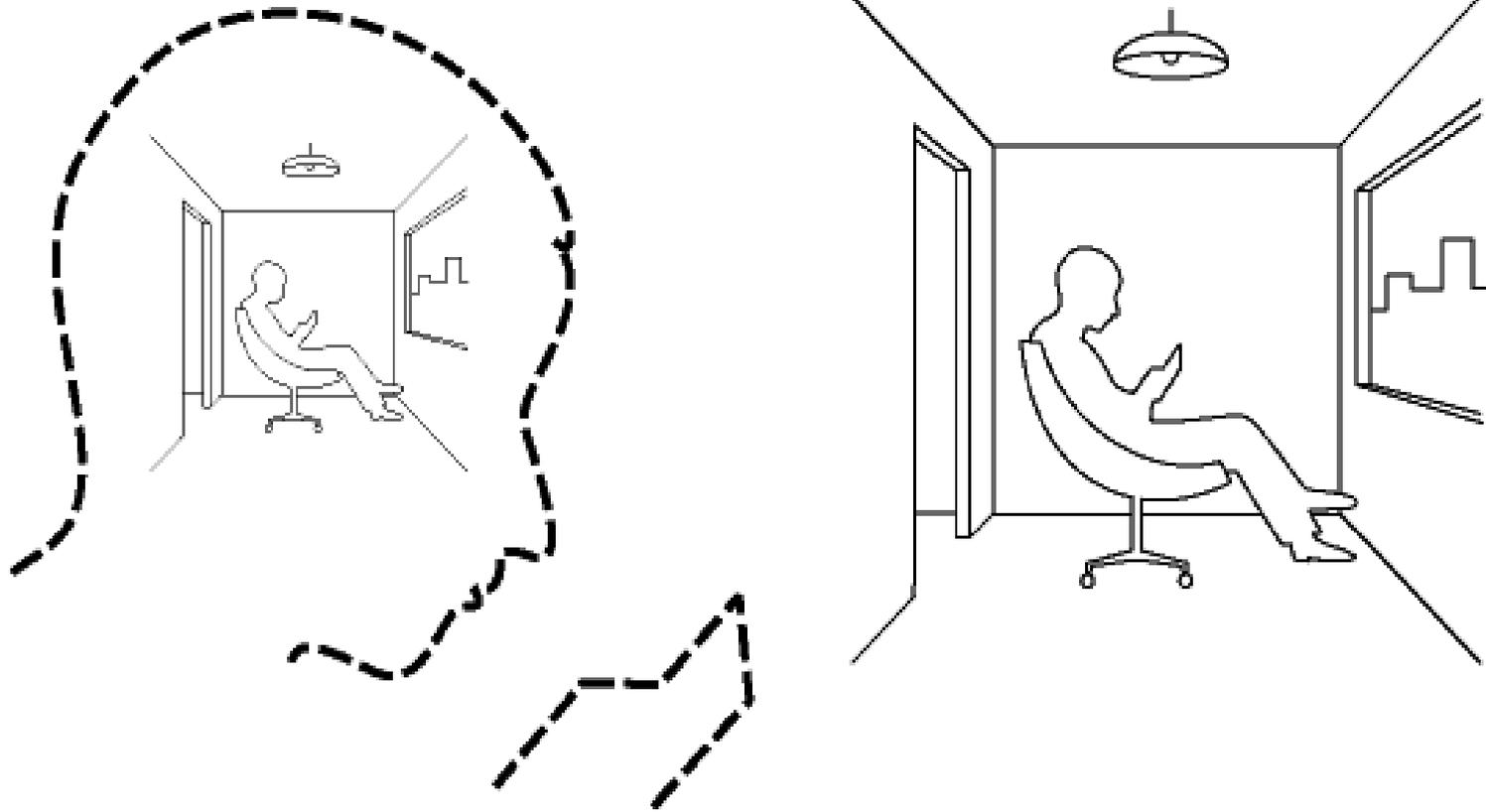


Appearance Vs Reality

Grant Bartley



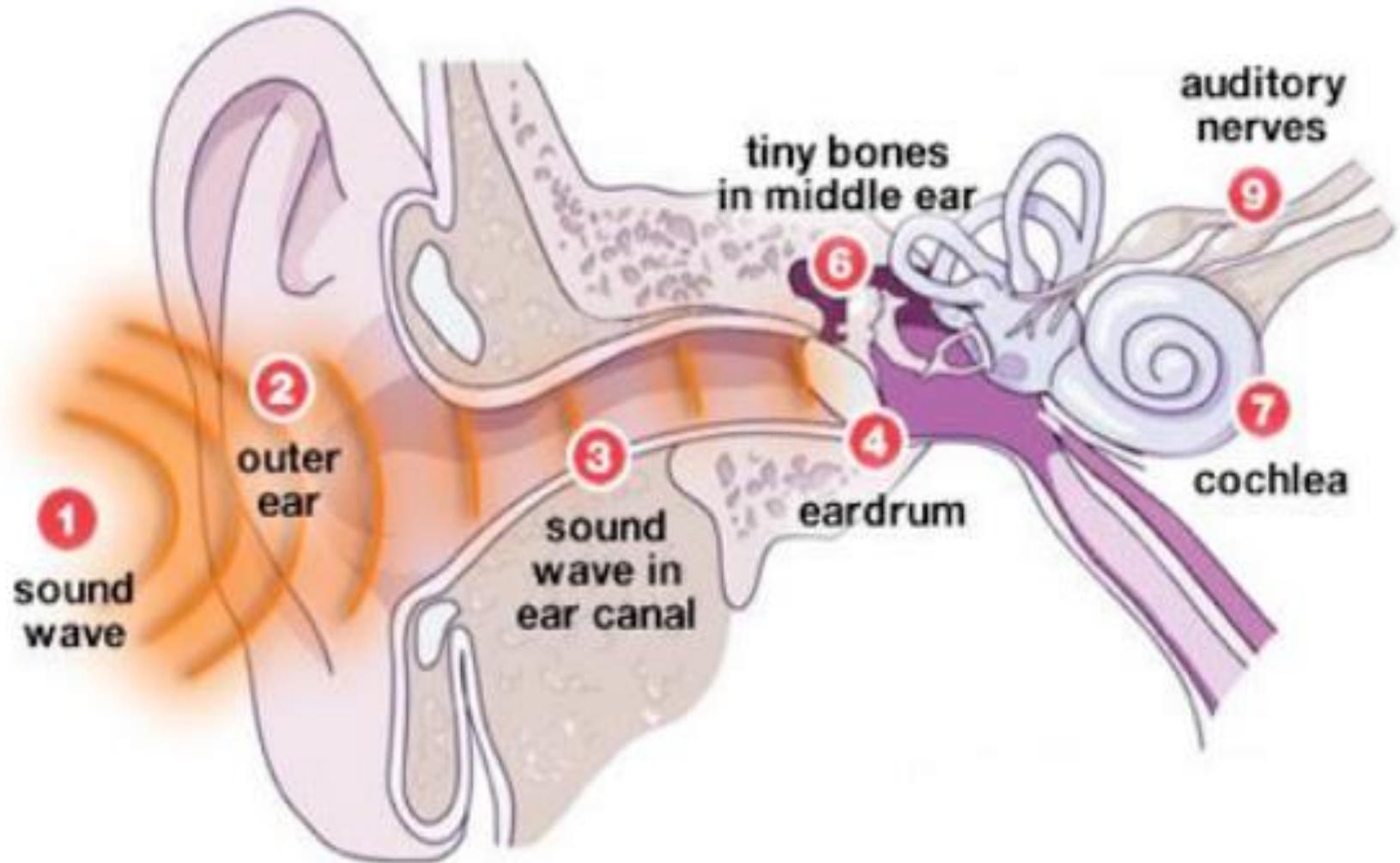
Imagine you couldn't see, hear,
or feel anything...



...would you know the world had 3D
objects in it?

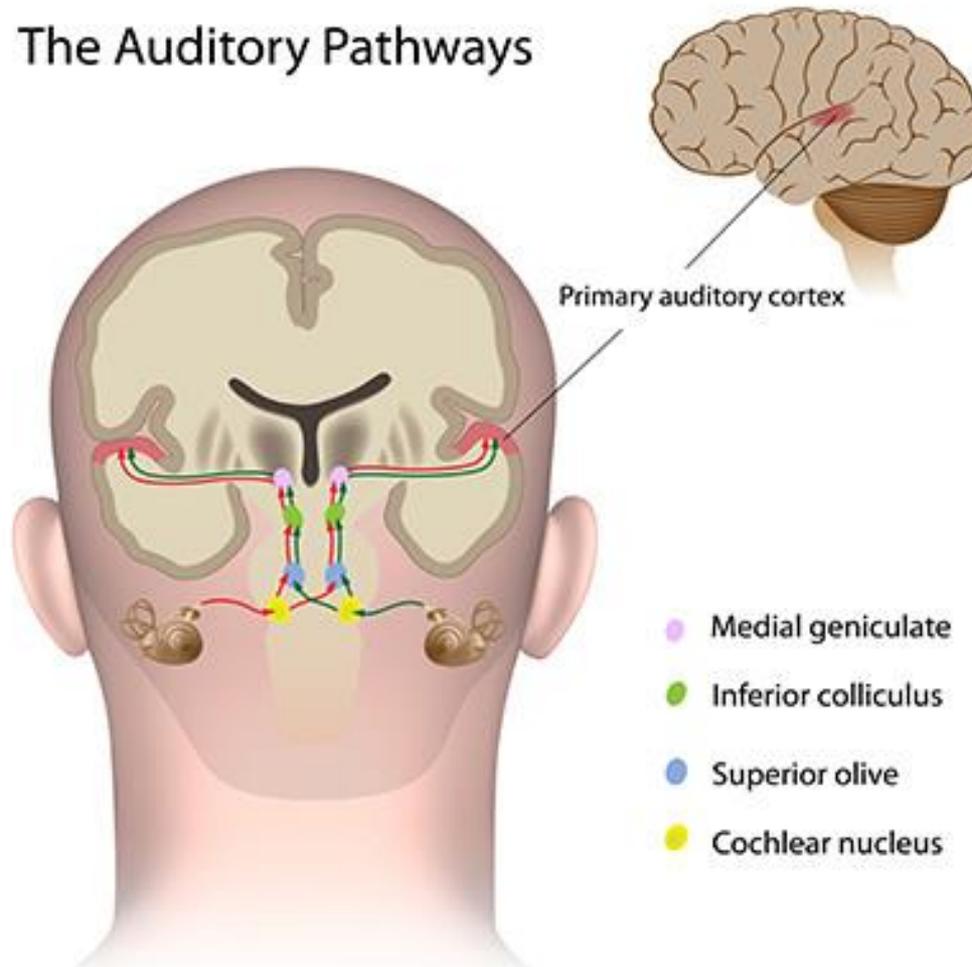


The basic mechanics of hearing

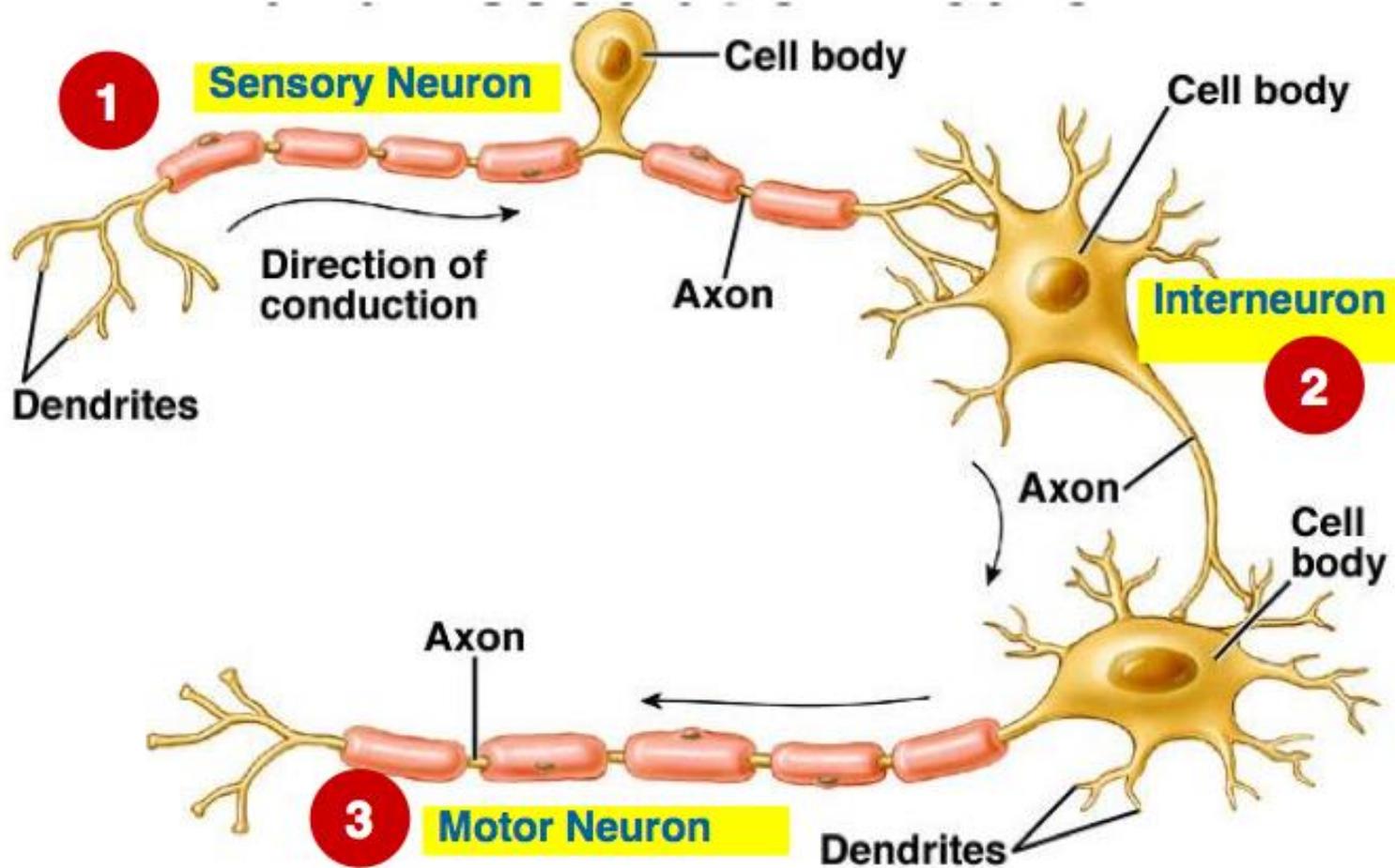


The **auditory cortex** in relation to the ears

The Auditory Pathways



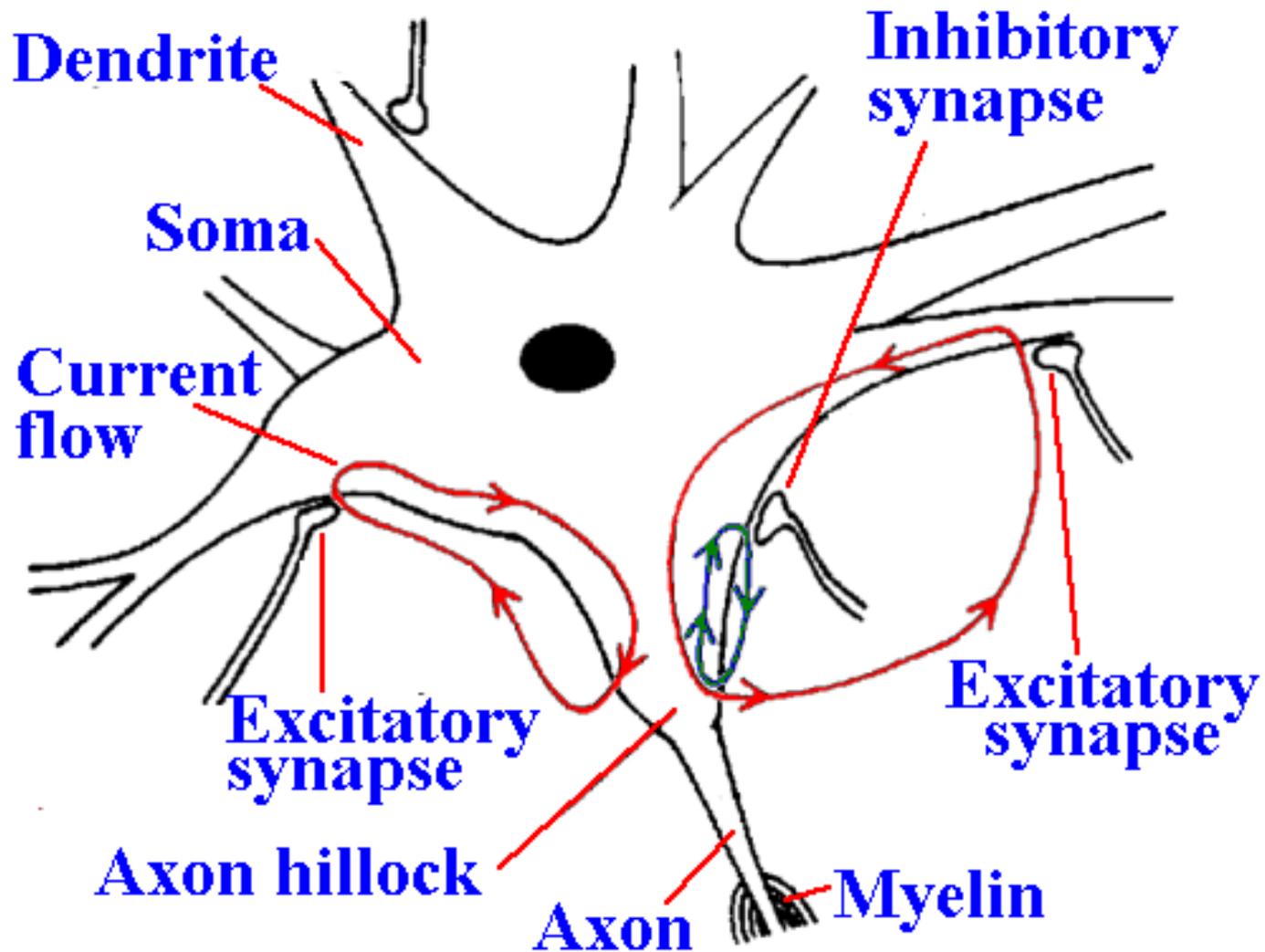
Three Types of Neurons



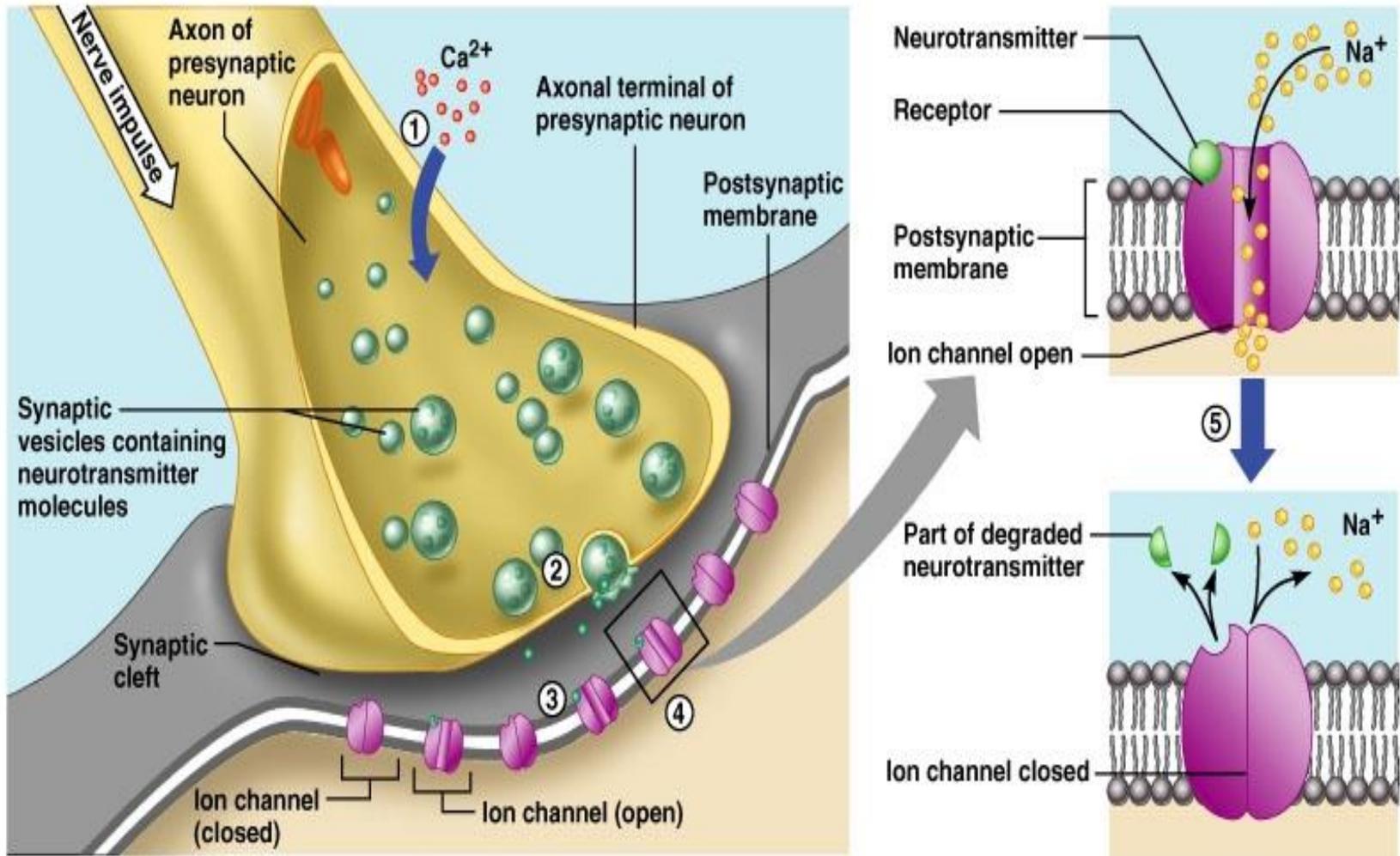
Some neuronal signalling



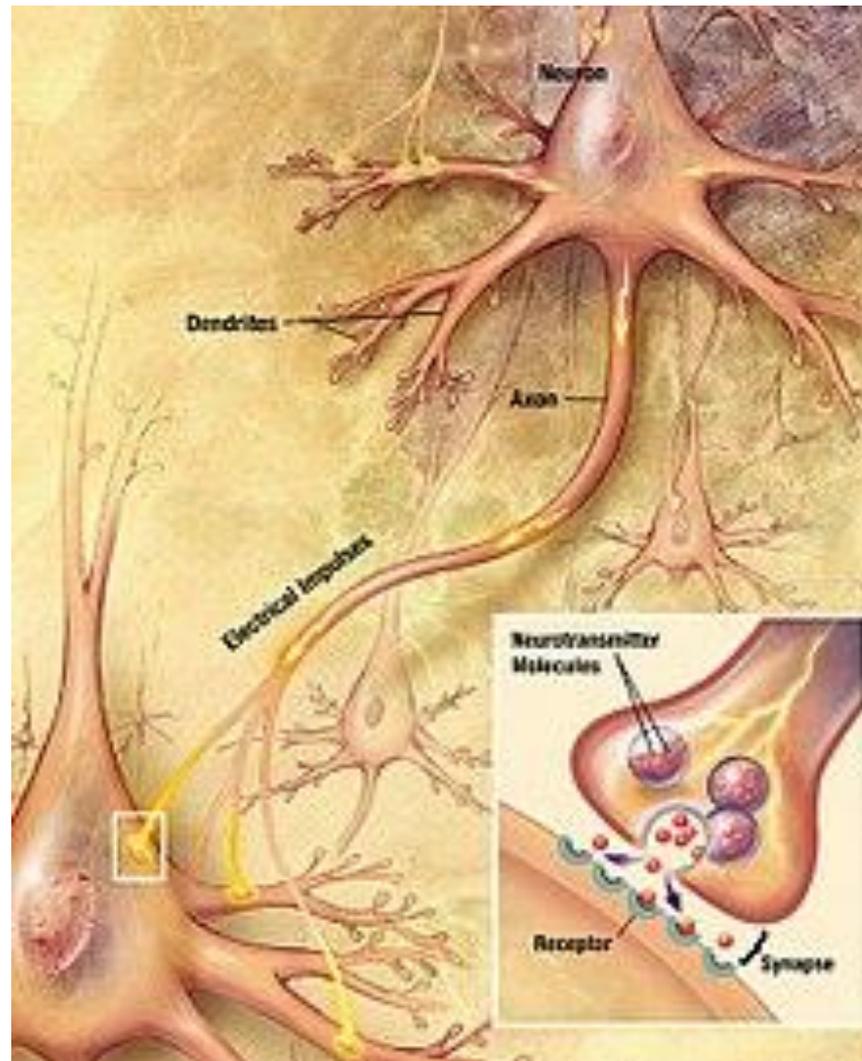
A Neuron



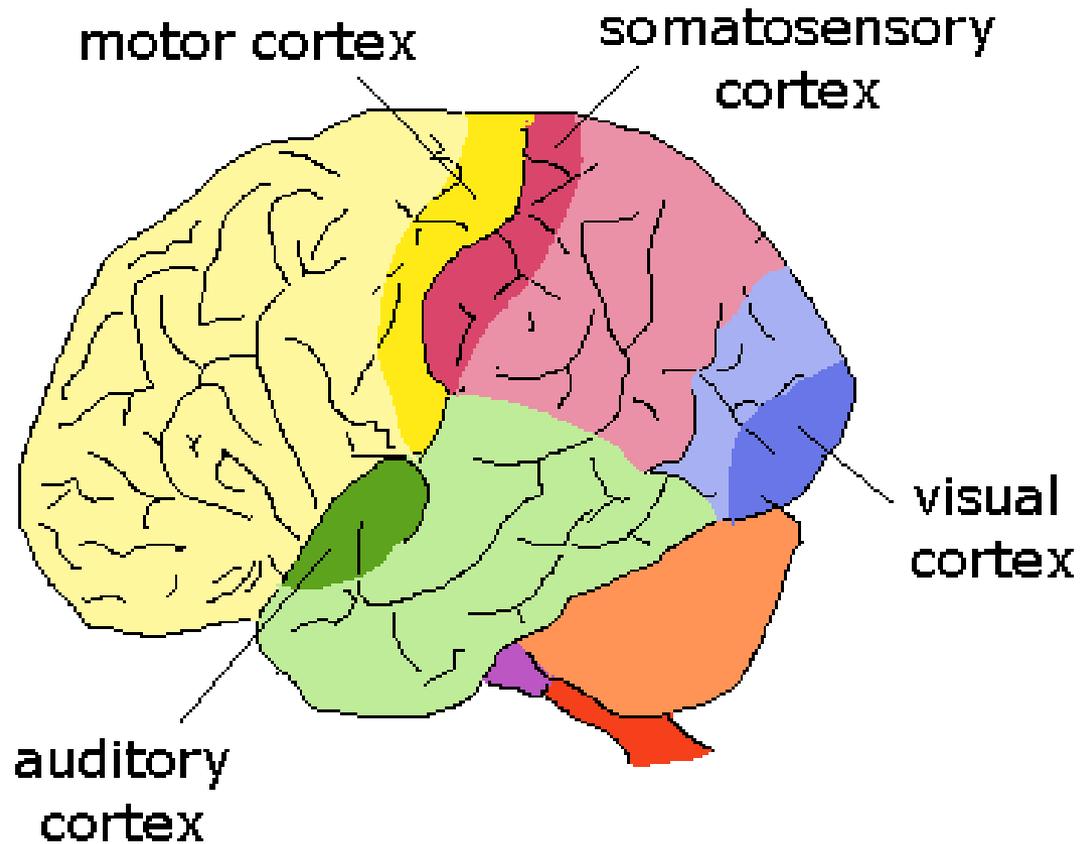
Molecules at a neuronal synapse



Axon meets dendrite



The Human Brain's Sensory Areas



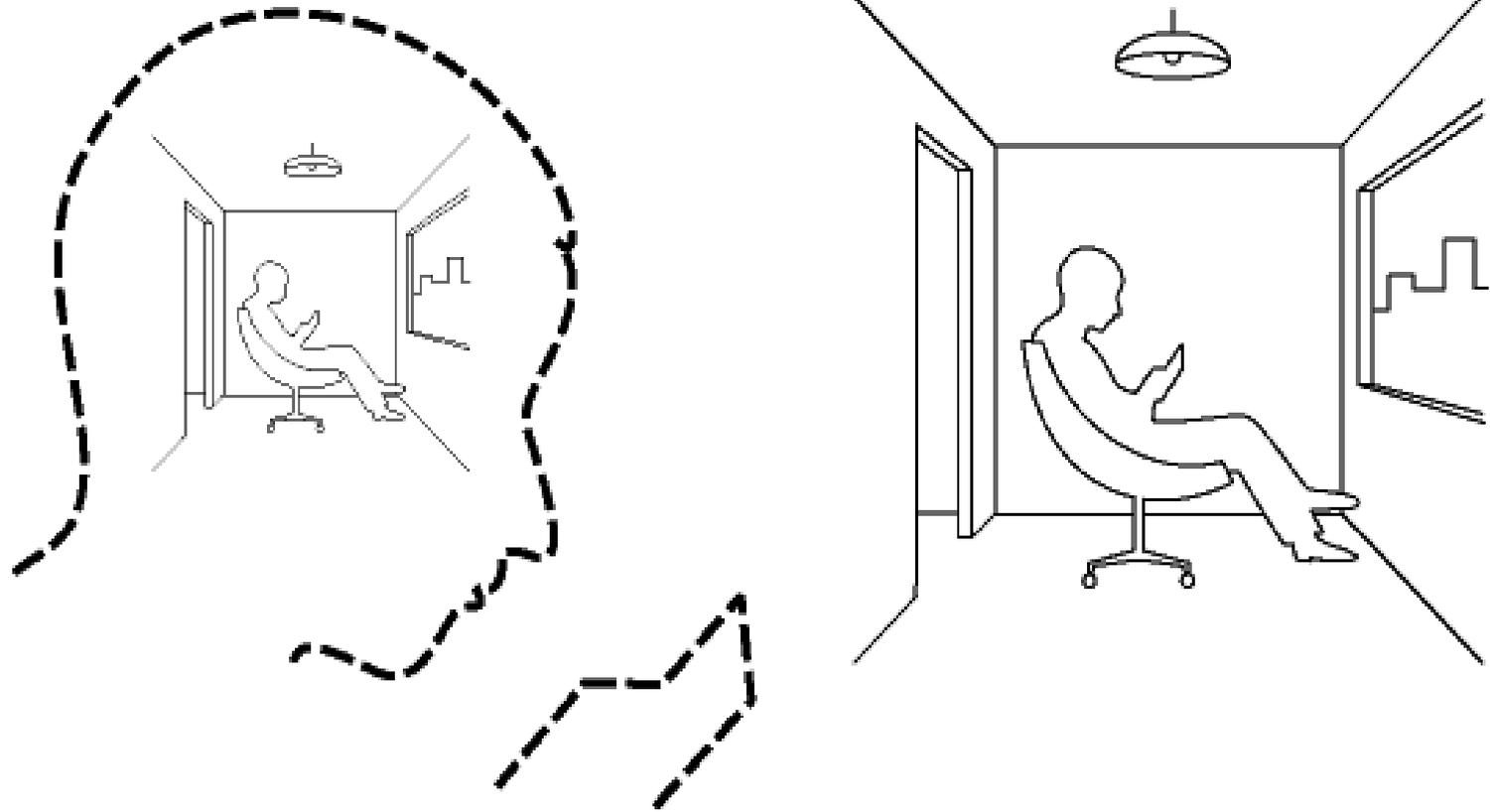
Front

Back

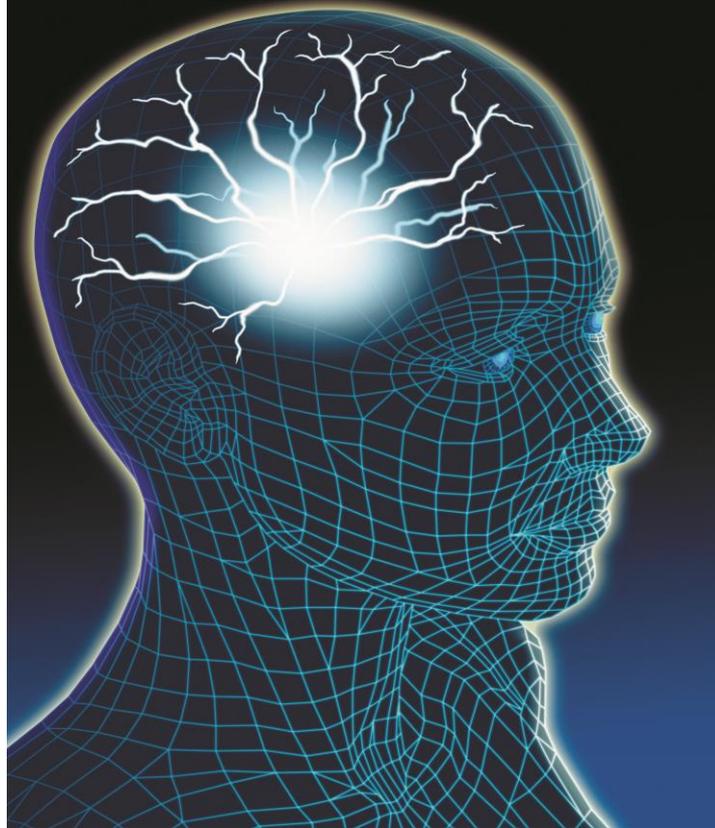
Every sensation you have of the world is created as a result of nervous activity



Your brain represents reality for your mind



Brain electricity creates all your experience



So your experience is not a direct contact with the outside world

So what's in your experience is
not the real world itself



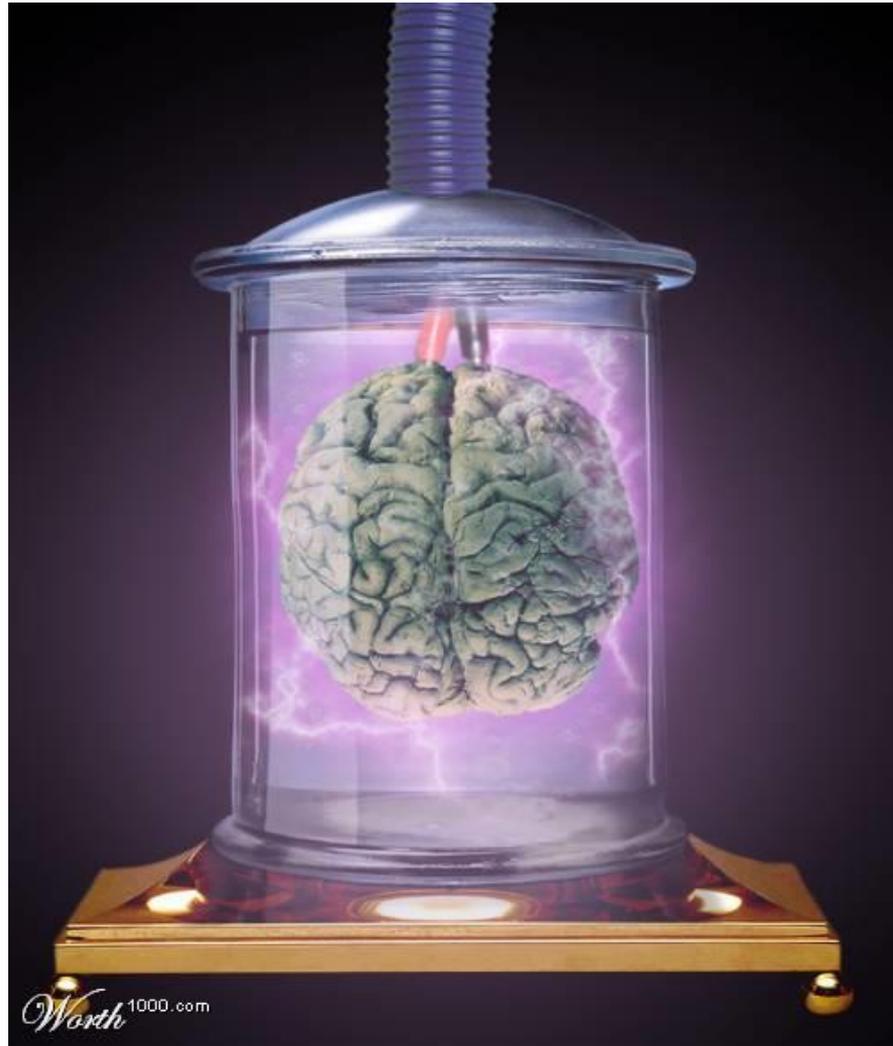
≠



Brain activity enables all thought



All we need to be ourselves

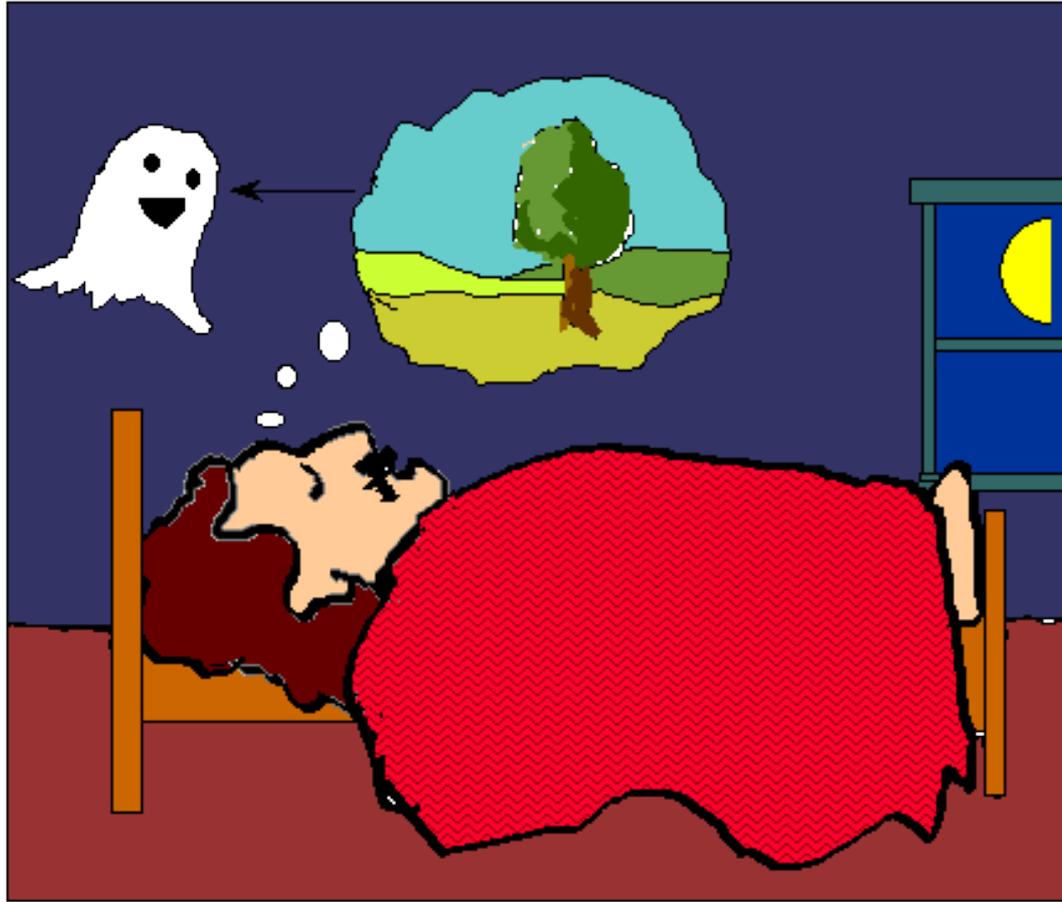




Our brains are in the vats of our skulls



How can I know I'm not dreaming?



Descartes

(1596-1650)



ALL our experience – of dreams, or reality – is made up inside our brains!





Some sensations



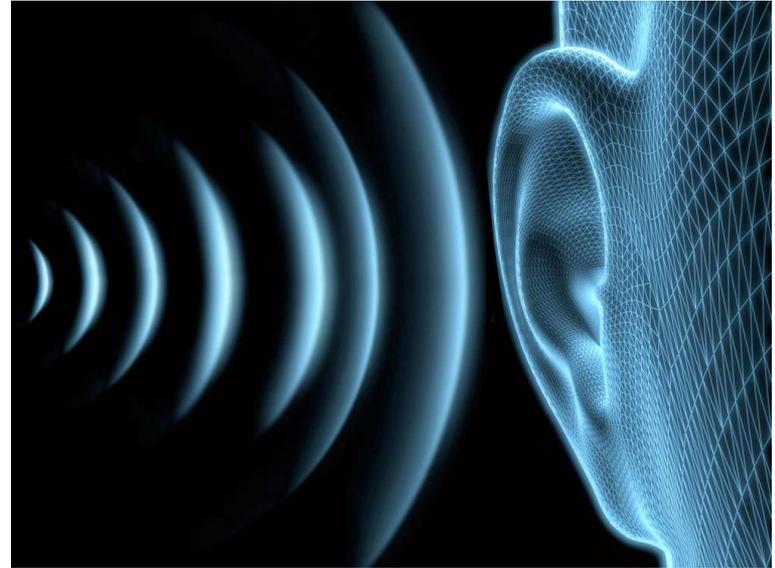
Colours and other sensations are only in our minds, not in things themselves out in the world



The experience of music \neq
The physical basis of sound



\neq



Sugar isn't sweet unless someone's tasting it...
(Looks sweet though, doesn't it?)



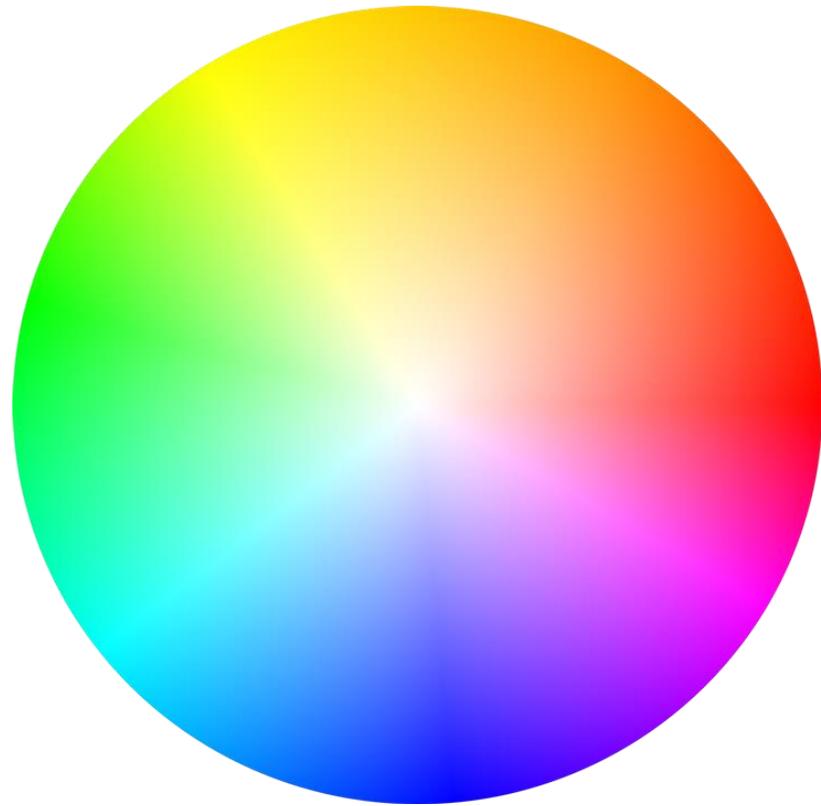
‘Grass is green’ means only that it has the potential to sometimes induce an experience of green





HELLO? CAN ANYBODY HEAR ME?

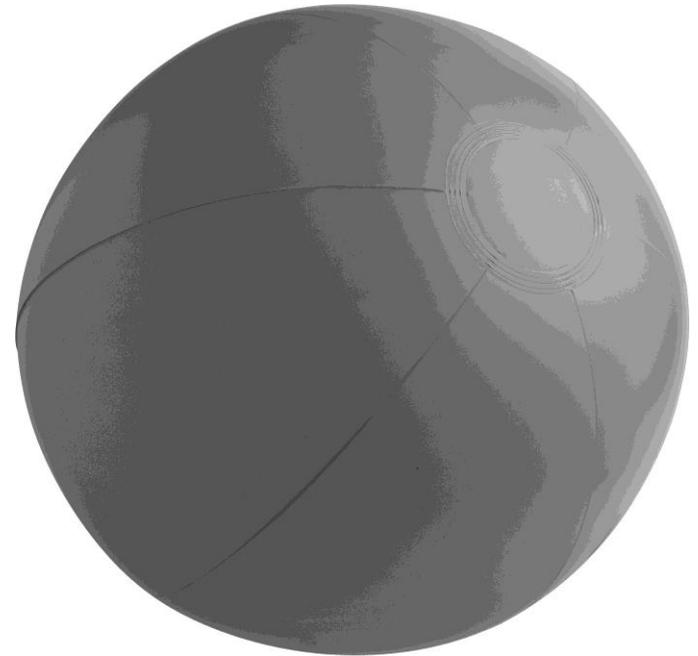
How could a colour exist without
being either seen or imagined?



What colour is this ball *really*?
What does your answer *mean*?



?



The frustration isn't a property of *the car itself*



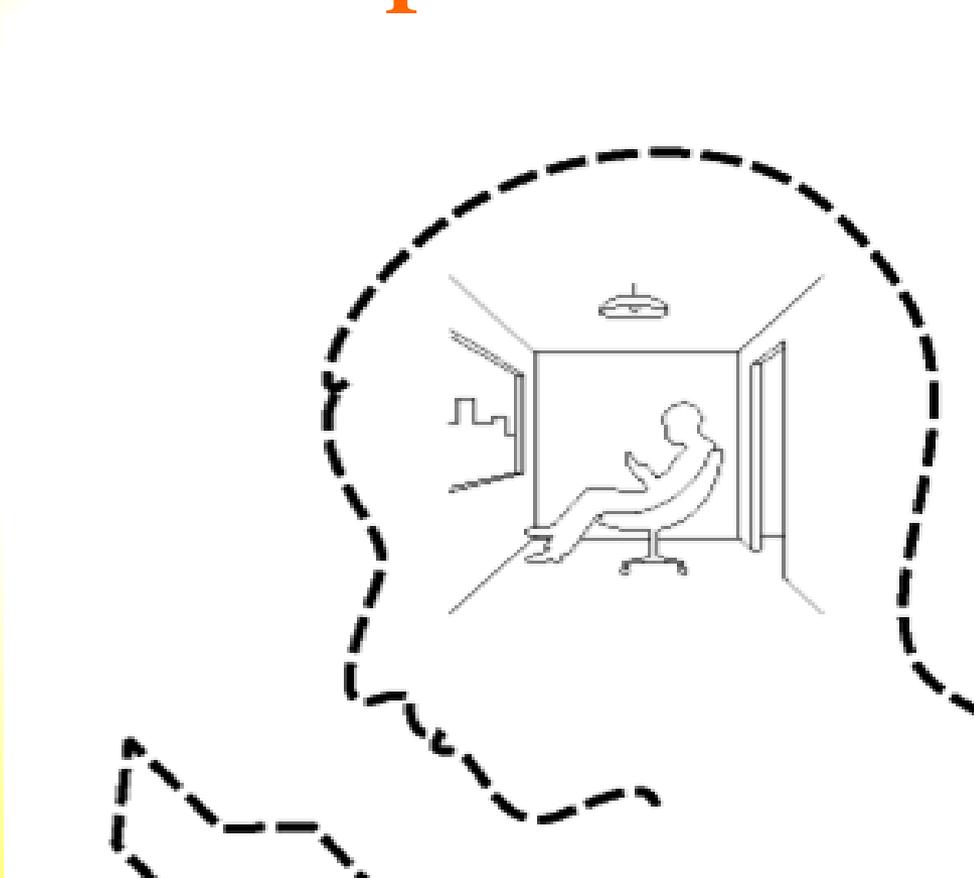
A BASIC DISTINCTION:

**THE WORLD AS IT
APPEARS TO US TO BE**

≠

**THE WORLD AS IT IS
IN ITSELF**

**What we directly see or experience is
only the appearance of things
Reality in itself exists beyond the
experience**



Galileo (1564-1642)

An early (meta)physicist



The first set of essential metaphysical distinctions:

- 1 The primary qualities**
(intrinsic) of objects – their shape, mass, motion, etc. Vs
- 2 Their secondary qualities**
(sensed): their visual appearance, sound, etc

The second set of essential metaphysical distinctions:

- 1 The internal world** of (your) mind and its contents Vs
- 2 The external world** of physical reality as it is in itself (and, technically speaking, other minds too).

**An essential, if confusing,
metaphysical fact:**

***All our experiences of
the external world
exist only in our
internal worlds***

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) in the external world



Descartes' solipsistic question rephrased:
**How can I know that anything exists beyond
my conscious awareness and its contents?**





We perceive ourselves making choices



**Your
Conscious
Choice in
the
Moment**

≠

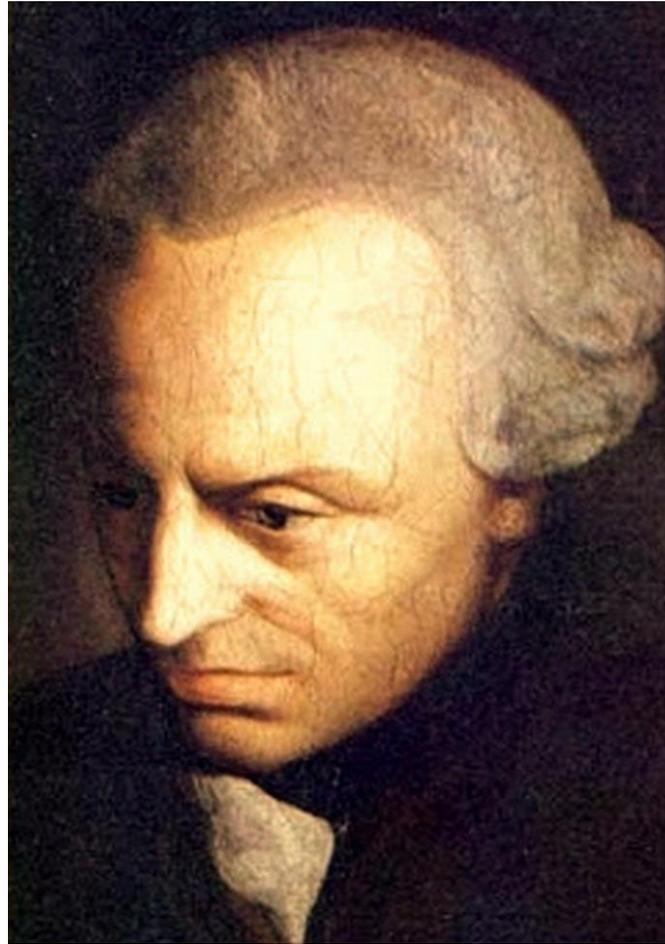


THE DISTINCTION AGAIN:

The phenomenal world
= the world as it appears
to us to be.

The noumenal world
= the world as it is in itself.

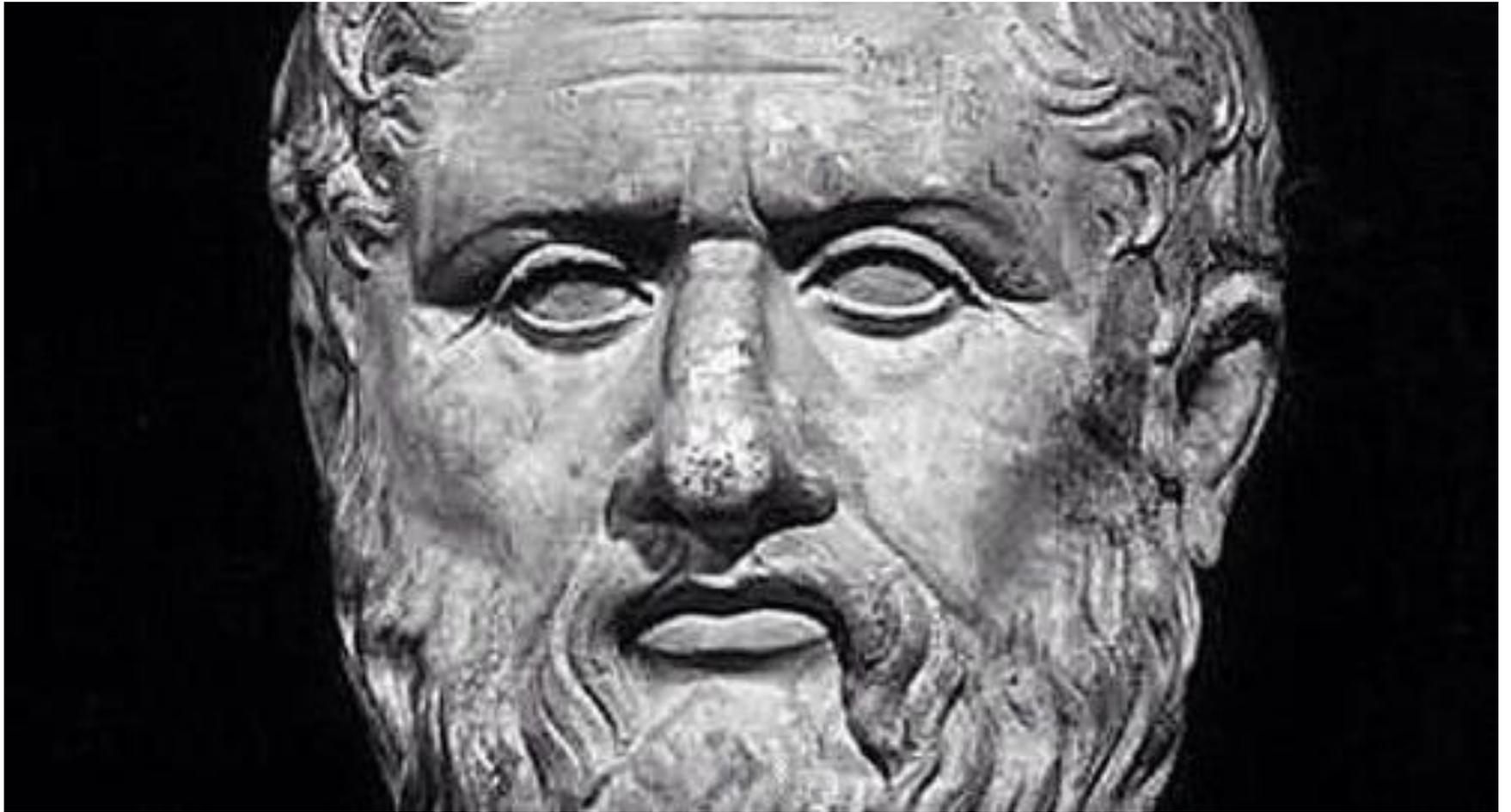
Another appearance of Immanuel Kant



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)



Plato idealised (427-347 BC)



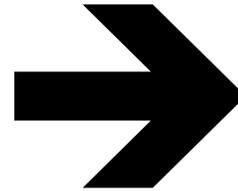
Kant: 'Causality is not a feature of the world as it is in itself'



Even our perception of how we come to represent the world is itself a *representation*



Brain activity models reality for our minds

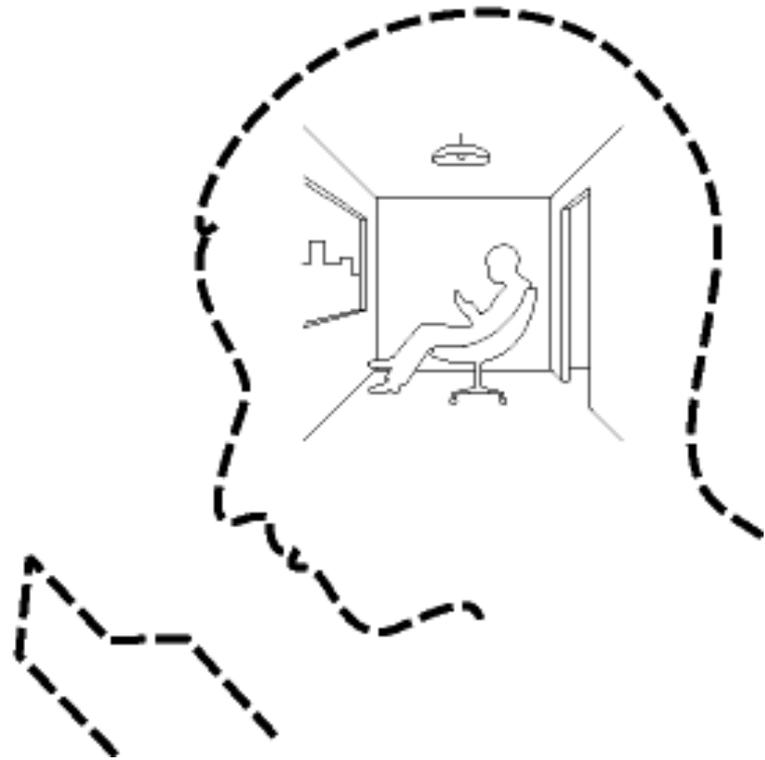


Your entire experience of reality is inside your mind

A

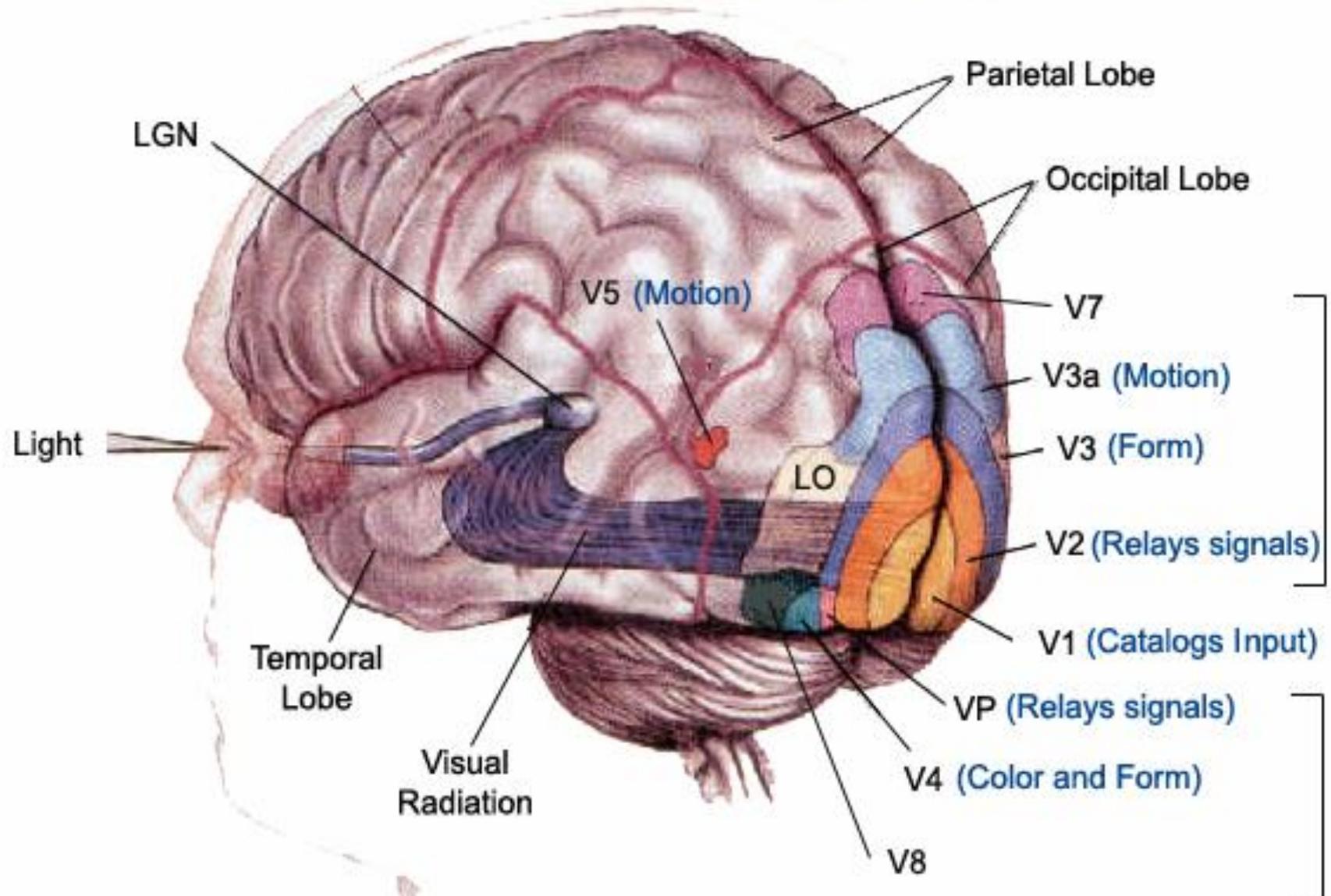


B

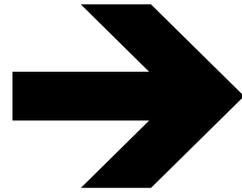


Different areas processing vision

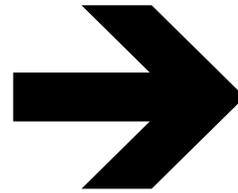
Visual Cortices



What is the ball really like
independent of our experience?



What is reality really like independent of human experience?





**Western philosophy
and science started
here**