

Fun Bits 3

The Mind-blowing Optical Illusions

There is a museum in Hong Kong featuring paintings that appear to be 3-D through the use of optical illusions. Optical illusions often trick our eyes and brain and make us believe that some images look different from reality. Let's learn about some optical illusions.

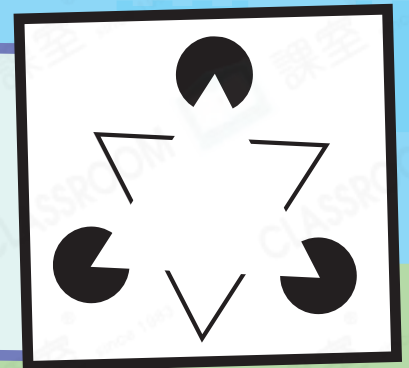
The Fraser Spiral Illusion



It makes use of different colours, patterns and shapes. The image on the left is not moving, but the combination of the patterns makes our eyes see the spiral effect. Try to look at the image and focus on it for a while. Does it look like it is spinning?

The Kanizsa Triangle Illusion

It is a common illusion that people can see a white triangle in the middle of the picture while in fact there are not any lines to form it. It is because we have an idea of what a triangle looks like so our brain tells our eyes to form the complete shape of a triangle with the clues.



A Draw lines to match the sentences to the words from the text.

1. We have to _____ on the paper during an examination.
2. I feel so dizzy that I think my head is _____.
3. The box looked empty as the magician put a mirror inside to create an _____.
4. This painting is simple as the artist only drew a circle in the _____ of it.
5. It is _____ to see people using their mobile phones on the MTR nowadays.

• illusion

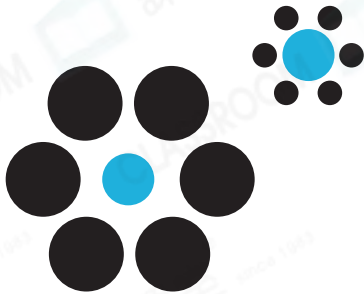
• common

• middle

• focus

• spinning

The Ebbinghaus Illusion



In this image, the blue circle on the right seems to look bigger. But the two blue circles are in fact the same size. Our brain uses the nearby objects as reference to tell the size of an object. Compared with the black circles on the left, those on the right are smaller and closer to the blue circle in the middle. These two things make us think that the blue circle on the right is bigger.

STEAM Highlights

Apart from our eyes, which part of our body is often tricked by optical illusions? (Find the answer from the text and check it on P.72.)

B Read what the children said and fill in the blanks with the names of the optical illusions they saw.

Is the picture spinning by itself?



1. _____

They look different, but they are the same.



2. _____

This is strange. I can see a shape when it is not there.



3. _____
