

Glossary

Gustation – The taste sense whose receptors lie in the mucous membrane covering the tongue and whose stimuli consist of certain soluble chemicals, e.g., salts, acids, sugar.

Microvilli – Submicroscopic projections of cell membranes greatly increasing surface area. Taste buds have numerous microvilli which are thought to facilitate rapid absorption of taste substances.

Palate – The roof of the mouth; also individual subjective preference patterns.

Papillae – Structures of various shapes on the tongue which contain taste buds. Four kinds are found on the human tongue: foliate, circumvallate, fungi-form, and filiform.

Perception – The process of becoming aware of objects, qualities, or relations by way of the sense organs.

Taste blindness – A deficiency in taste perception. See Ageusia.

Taste buds – The end organs of the taste-nerves, located in the folds of the tongue and, to a lesser extent, other areas of the oral cavity. Also “taste-bakers” or “taste-onions.”

Trigeminal – Relating to the Vth cranial nerve, over which pain sensations are transmitted to the central nervous system.