

# ▶ COOL COOLER

Which is more accurate: your ability to sense temperature or your ability to sense pressure? The next illusion is one answer to this question

3 pennies  
a refrigerator

Put two pennies in the refrigerator for about five minutes.

Hold the third penny for the same amount of time so that it becomes the temperature of your hand

Amazingly, all three pennies feel cold, including the one in the middle. This is because your sense of pressure is more accurate than your temperature sense. Your brain assumes that a temperature stimulation that comes from the same place as a pressure stimulation is caused by the pressure

stimulation. Since there is pressure on all three fingers, the middle finger is fooled into feeling cold, just like the two outer fingers, although the penny is the same temperature as the finger.

Do you get the same effect when the two outer pennies have been warmed up by putting them in hot water and the middle penny is neutral?

Your skin has receptor cells that are sensitive to either hot or cold but not to both. The heat receptors respond to

Write your answer to the question: Which is more accurate: your ability to sense temperature or your ability to sense pressure? The next illusion is one answer to this question.

