

Sense, *n.* [excerpted from the *Oxford English Dictionary*]

I. Faculty of perception or sensation.

1. a. Each of the special faculties, connected with a bodily organ, by which man and other animals perceive external objects and changes in the condition of their own bodies. Usually reckoned as five—sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch. Also called **outward** or **external sense** (cf. 8).

c. *pl.* The faculties of physical perception or sensation as opposed to the higher faculties of intellect, spirit, etc.

3. In generalized use: The senses viewed as forming a single faculty in contradistinction to intellect, will, etc.; the exercise or function of this faculty, sensation.

4. a. *pl.* The faculties of corporeal sensation considered as channels for gratifying the desire for pleasure and the lusts of the flesh. Also *sing.*, any one of such faculties so regarded.

† **5.** Capability of feeling, as a quality of the body and its parts; liability to feel pain, irritation, etc. **to the sense**, to the quick. *Obs.*

7. a. Applied to faculties of the mind or soul compared or contrasted with the bodily senses; usually with some defining word, as **inner**, **interior**, **internal**, **inward sense**. **moral sense**: see [MORAL](#) a. 1d.

10. a. *pl.* The mental faculties in their normal condition of sanity; one's 'reason' or 'wits'. (Cf. 6.) **in one's (right) senses**, in one's right mind. **to bring** (a person) **to his senses**: to cure of his folly (one who is behaving 'madly'). (**to frighten**, etc.) **out of one's (seven) senses**: out of one's wits.

11. a. Natural understanding, intelligence, esp. as bearing on action or behaviour; practical soundness of judgement.

See also [COMMON SENSE](#) 2, 2b, [GOOD SENSE](#), [HORSE-SENSE](#).

II. Actual perception or feeling.

12. A feeling or perception *of* (something external) through the channels of touch, taste, etc.; the feeling or consciousness *of* some bodily affection, as pain, fatigue, comfort or discomfort, etc.

† **c. (one's) sense of things**: perception or judgement of what is right, fitting, etc. *Obs.*

Sensibility, n. [excerpted from the *Oxford English Dictionary*]

2. a. Power of sensation or perception; † the specific function of any of the organs of sense (*obs.*). Now often, the (greater or less) readiness of an organ or tissue to respond to sensory stimuli; sensitiveness.

b. Philos. Power or faculty of feeling, capacity of sensation and emotion as distinguished from cognition and will.

5. a. Quickness and acuteness of apprehension or feeling; the quality of being easily and strongly affected by emotional influences; sensitiveness. Also, with *const.*, sensitiveness *to*, keen sense of something.

6. In the 18th and early 19th c. (afterwards somewhat *rarely*): Capacity for refined emotion; delicate sensitiveness of taste; also, readiness to feel compassion for suffering, and to be moved by the pathetic in literature or art.

From the Norton *Sense and Sensibility*

Hannah More, from *Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education* (296-297)

Raymond Williams, on *Sensibility* (333>)