

2005-1 Text 0

1- The human nose is an underrated tool.

Humans are often thought to be insensitive smellers compared with animals, _____ this is largely because, _____ animals, we stand upright.

This means that our noses are _____ to perceiving those smells which float through the air, _____ the majority of smells which stick to surfaces.

In fact, _____, we are extremely sensitive to smells, _____ we do not generally realize it.

Our noses are capable of _____ human smells even when these are _____ to far below one part in one million.

2- Strangely, some people find that they can smell one type of flower but not another, _____ others are sensitive to the smells of both flowers.

This may be because some people do not have the genes necessary to generate _____ smell receptors in the nose.

These receptors are the cells which sense smells and send _____ to the brain.

However, it has been found that even people insensitive to a certain smell _____ can suddenly become sensitive to it when _____ to it often enough.

3- The explanation for insensitivity to smell seems to be that the brain finds it _____ to keep all smell receptors working all the time but can _____ new receptors if necessary.

This may _____ explain why we are not usually sensitive to our own smells - we simply do not need to be.

We are not _____ of the usual smell of our own house, but we _____ new smells when we visit someone else's.

The brain finds it best to keep smell receptors _____ for unfamiliar and emergency signals _____ the smell of smoke, which might indicate the danger of fire.