

ATTENTION

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DEFINITION

- The direction and concentration of perception towards stimuli

Selectivity & Attraction

■ External factors:

- Intensity of stimulus
- Repetition
- Changeability
- Contrast
- Unfamiliarity
- Combination of sensory stimuli
- Combination of factors

■ Internal factors

➤ General factors:

- Sensory fitness

- IQ

➤ Temporary factors:

- Physical state (fever)

- Emotion

- Set

Shifting

- We cannot focus our attention for an indefinite time
- Attention shifts from stimulus to another
- Why?
 - Spontaneity
 - Exploring
 - Monotony
 - Fatigue
 - Satisfaction

Fluctuation

- If we concentrate on the same object for sufficient time, attention waxes and wanes

Sustainability

- The ability to maintain attention to a particular stimulus for a long time
- It is needed in studying
- Factors that help sustainability:
 - Interest
 - Curiosity
 - Punishment and praise

Distraction

- The negative aspect of attention
- Attention is attracted away from the original stimulus to a subsidiary stimulus
 - External
 - Internal
- It may lead to inattention to the original task

How to eliminate distraction?

- Get rid of distracting stimuli if possible
- Put extra effort in attending to the original task
- Negative adaptation
- Combining the distracting stimulus with the original task

Disorders of attention

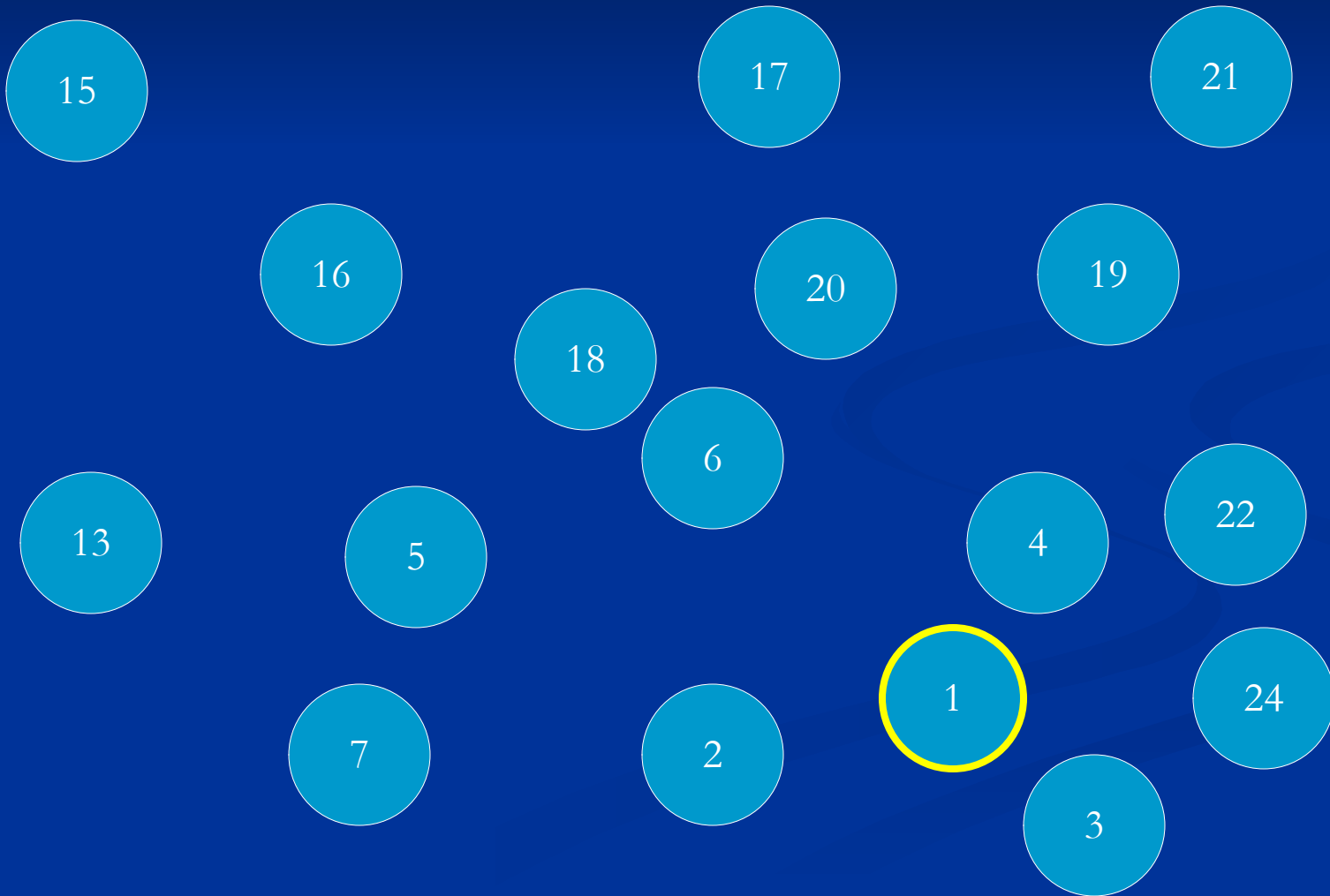
- Hyperprosexia
- Inattention
- Distractibility

Tests of Executive Dysfunction: Stroop Test



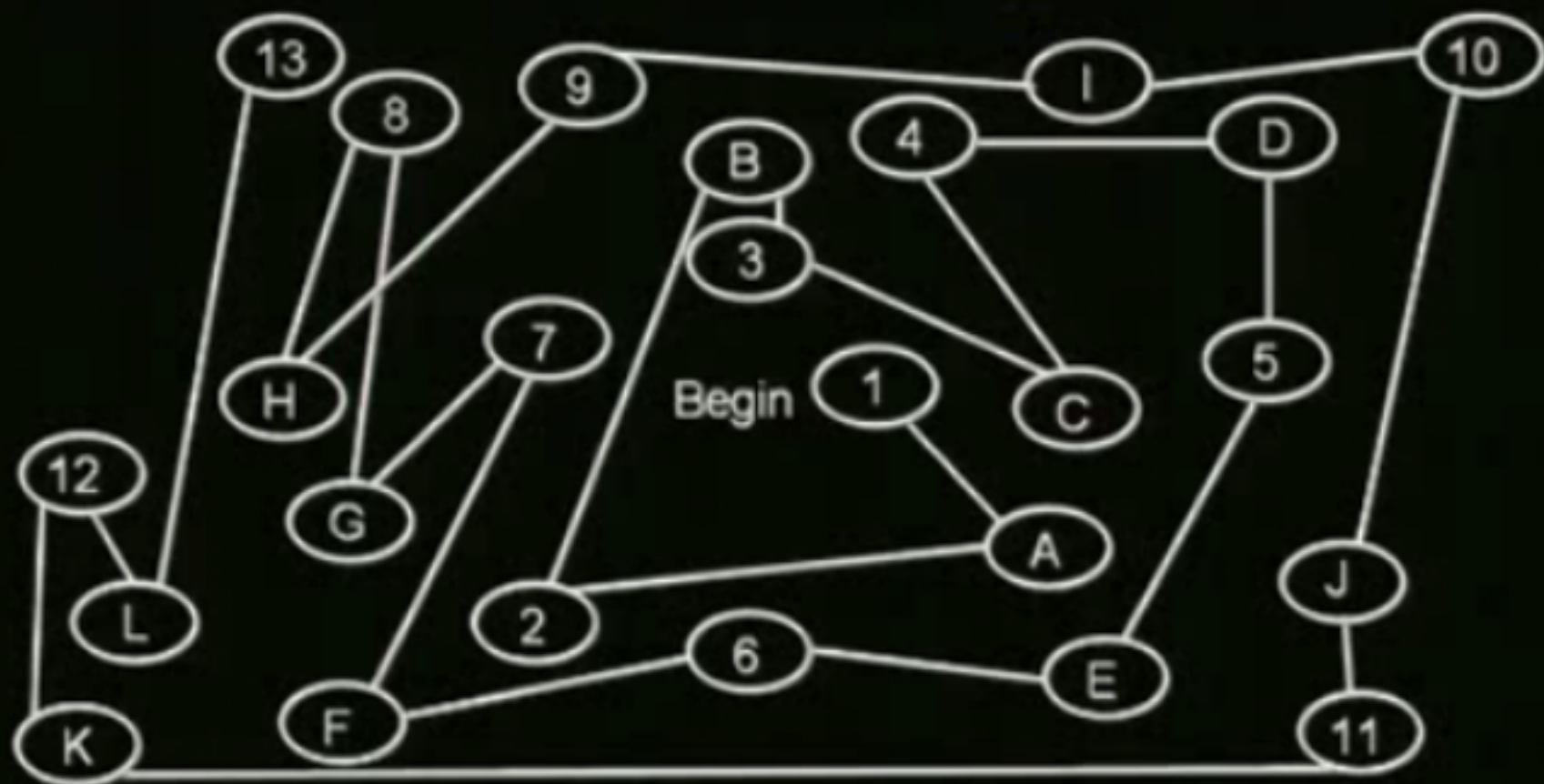
Read the color, not the word

Trail-Making Test Part A



Tests of Executive Dysfunction: Trail-Making Test Part B

Connect the numbers and letters in an alternating pattern (1-A-2-B-3-C, etc)



THANK YOU