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Situational Awareness For Linemen

Seeing the bad things coming...
in time to prevent bad outcomes.

Dr. Richard B. Gasaway
Fire Chief (ret.)
Situational Awareness Matters!

On and off the job...
you make important
decisions.

Situational awareness

is the foundation for your
good decision making.

It's logical...

**The better you
understand a situation.**

**The better your
decision making will be.**

You can have **TERRIBLE**
situational awareness.

And still make a
GREAT decision.

We call that...

Lucky



Let's program out
some of the luck...

And replace it with a
skillset that can improve
your decision making.

Today...
is going to be

“that day!”

Situational awareness

Your ability to **PERCEIVE**

AND **UNDERSTAND**

What is happening
around you...

while being mindful of how time is passing.

And then

Being able to accurately **PREDICT** future events... In time to avoid bad outcomes.

Let's build a house.

Perception

**Use your five senses to capture information...
(clues and cues) about what is happening.**

- **I pay attention!**
- **I keep your head on a swivel.**
- **I look up, down, and all around.**
- **I actively listen.**
- **I size-up the situation.**

Understanding

Making sense out of what you:
See, hear, feel, taste & smell



Comprehension



Ask yourself
some questions.

“What does this mean?”



“Is this what I expected?”





It seems so easy...

See... and understand.

Hear... and understand.

Situational Awareness Barriers

Anything that blocks or interrupts:

Perception

Understanding

Prediction



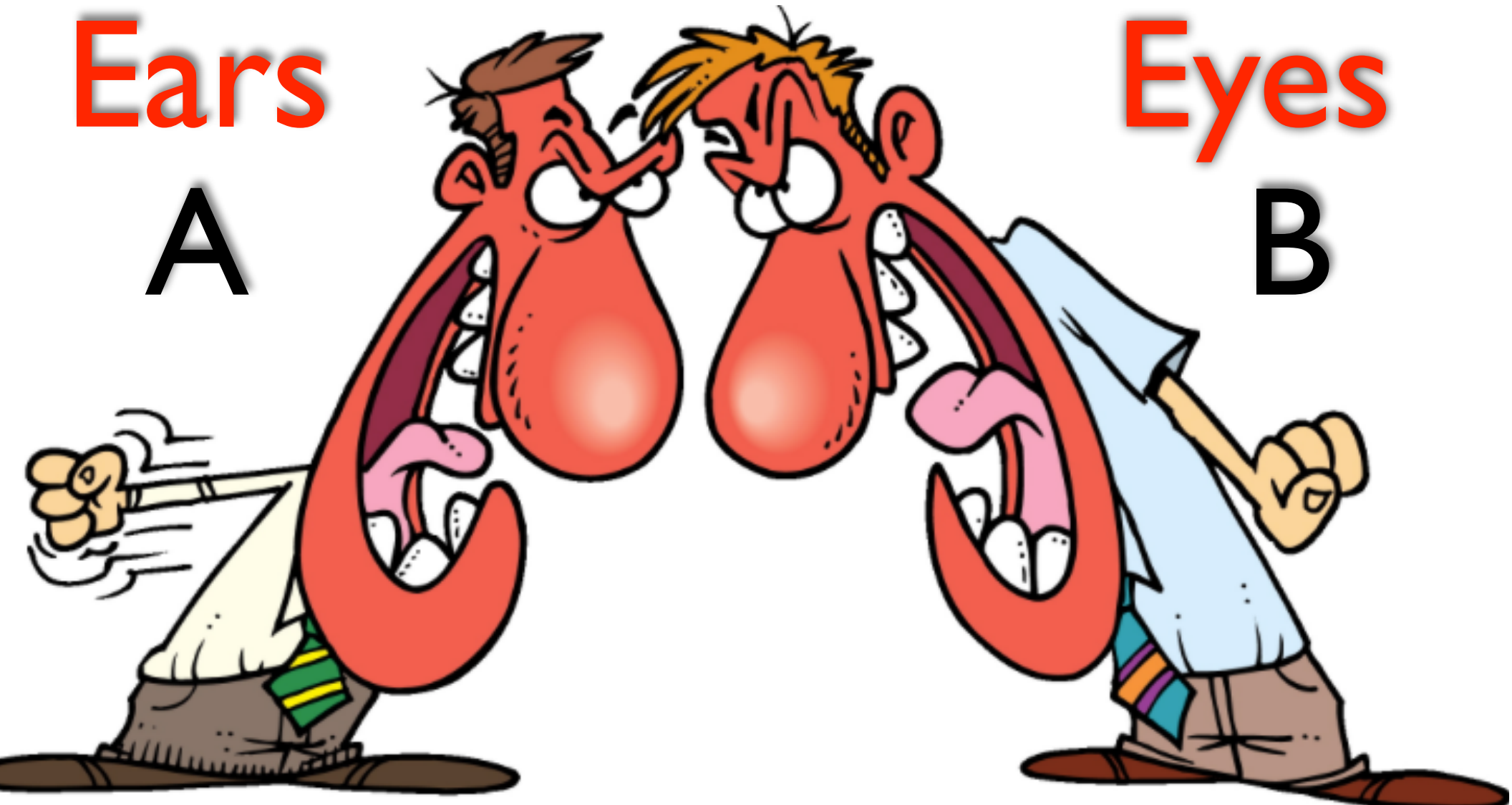
Sensory Conflict

Ears

A

Eyes

B



What happens when the puzzle
pieces don't fit together?

It causes confusion in your brain.

**Confusion makes you more
vulnerable for injury.**

Your attention shifts toward
trying to resolve
the mental confusion.

Mind Drift

Robotic
Action

Acting
without
thinking.

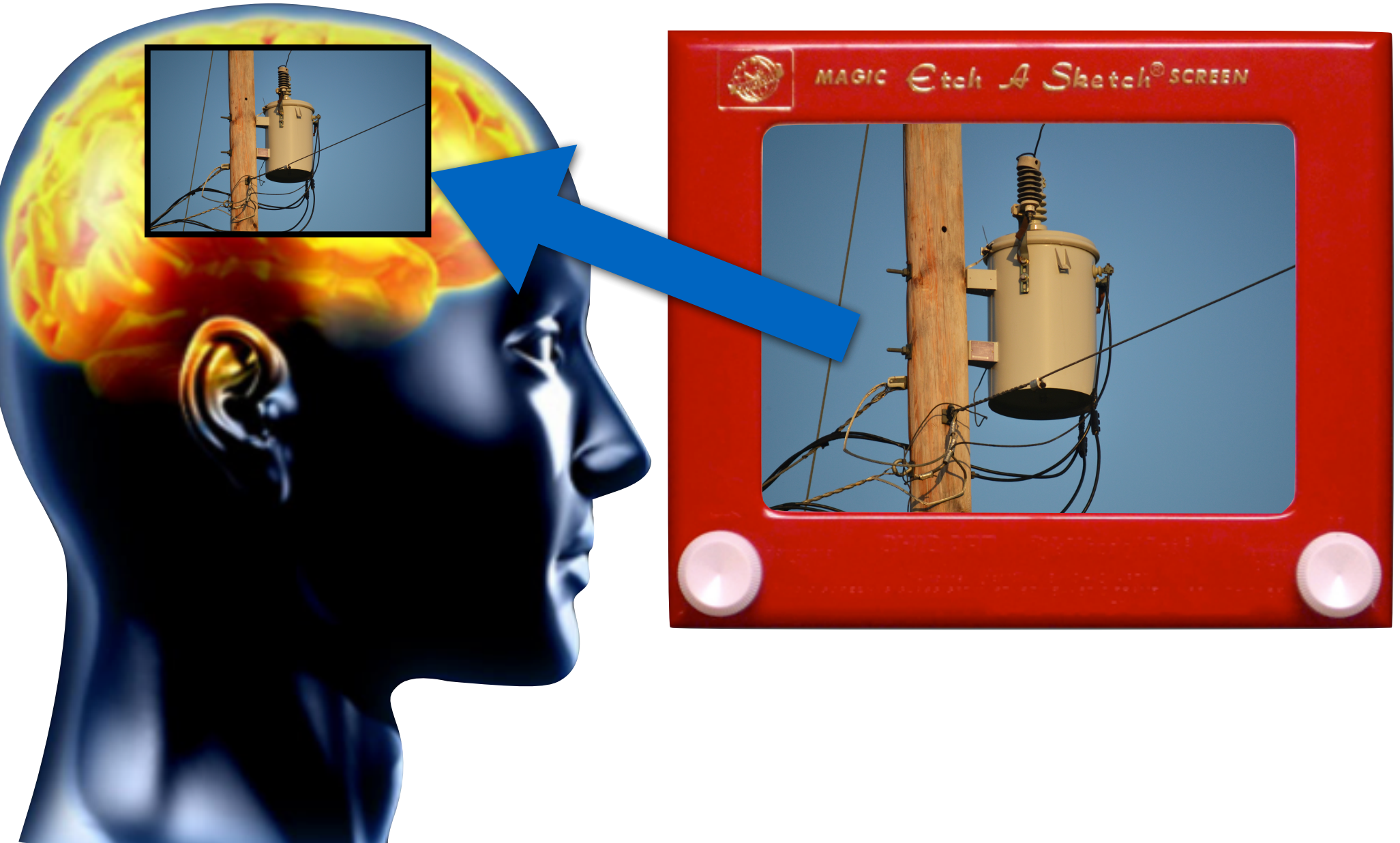
Where in your brain does your jigsaw puzzle get assembled?



MAGIC Etch A Sketch® SCREEN



Memory Recall



Long Term Memory



Fact

The capacity of your
long-term memory:

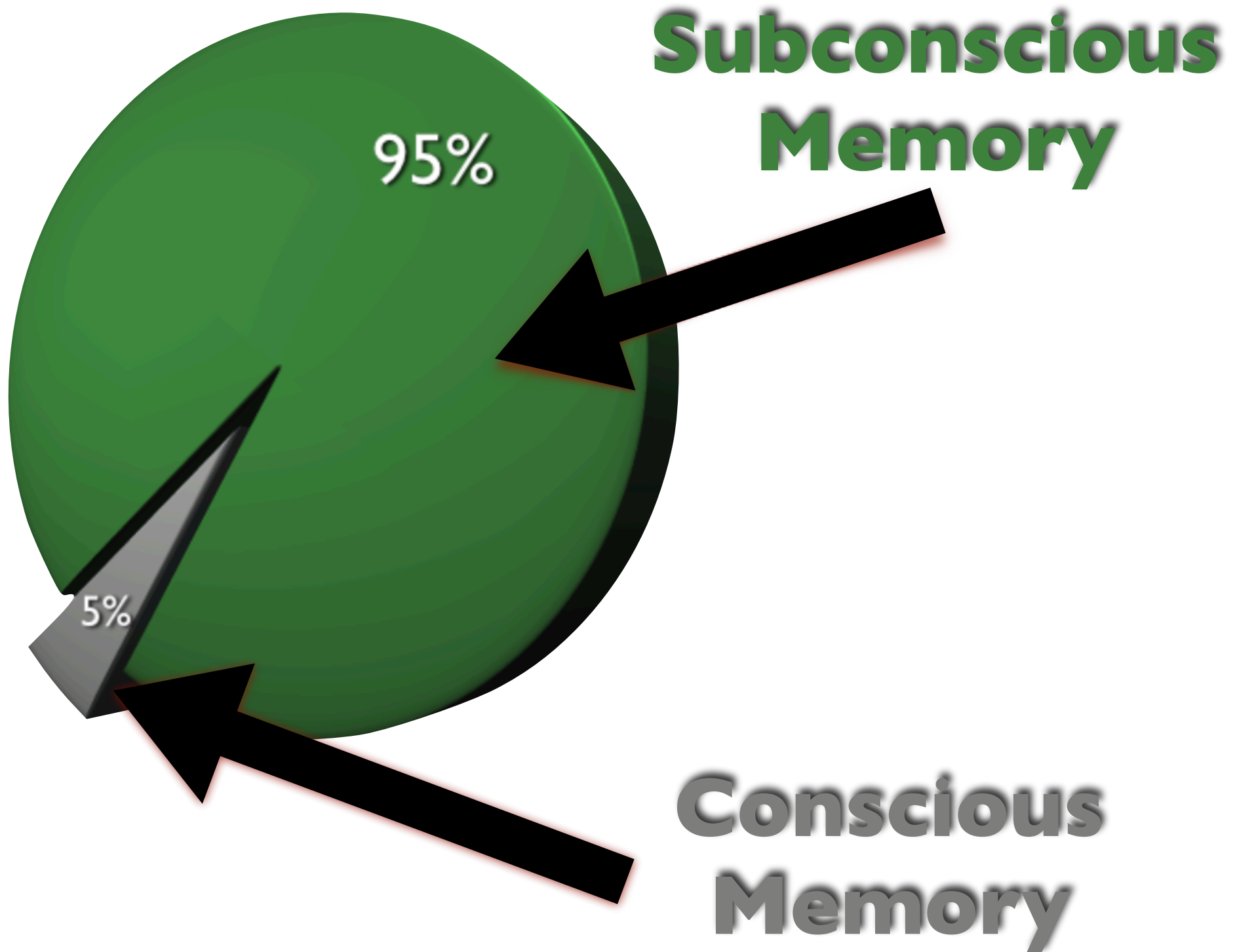
10 times all the information
stored on the Internet.



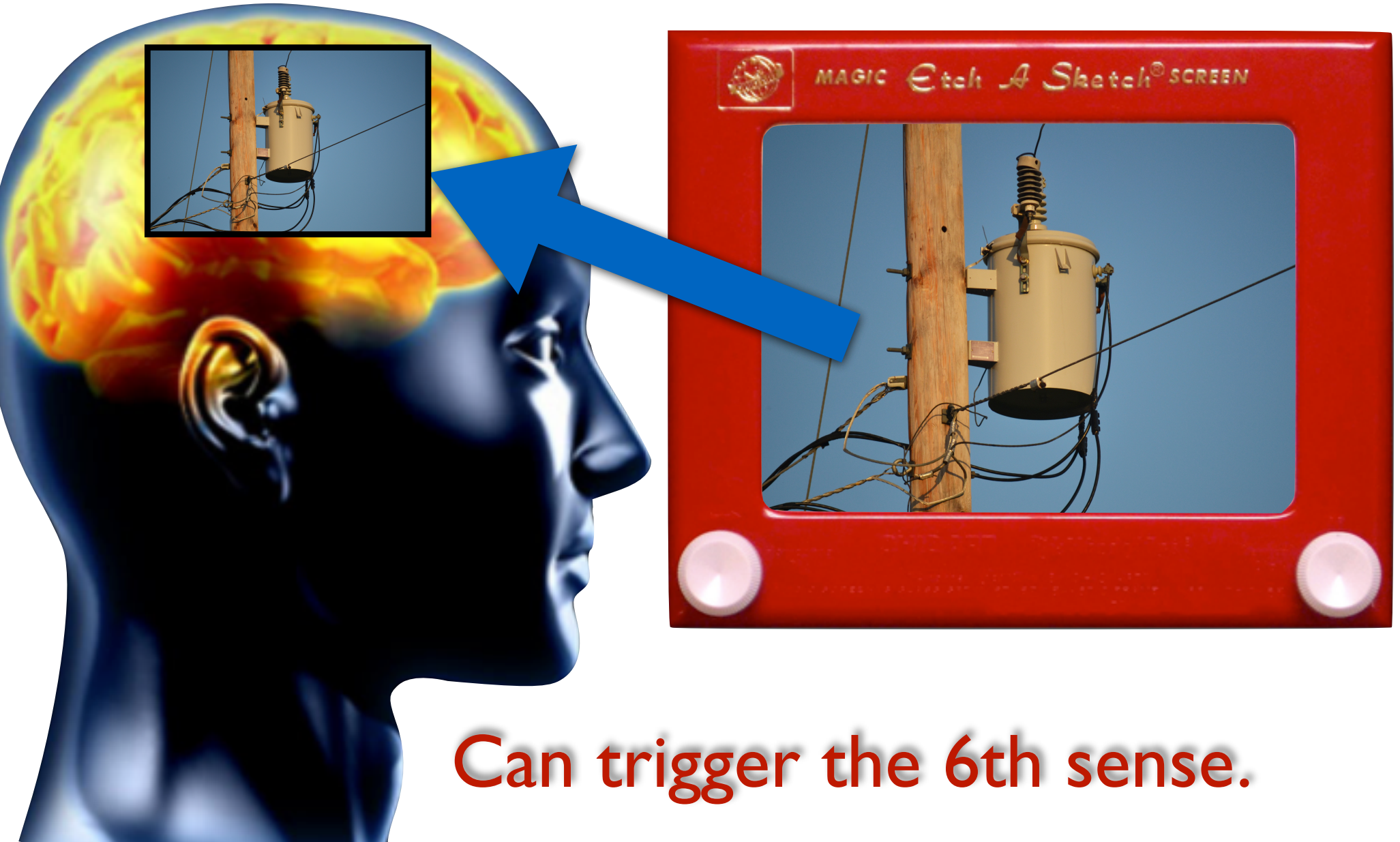
Fact

You can only consciously access:

5% of your long-term
memory data base.



Memory Recall



Can trigger the 6th sense.

Intuition

Knowing...

Without knowing...

How you
know.

How do we know?

If we don't know...

How we know?

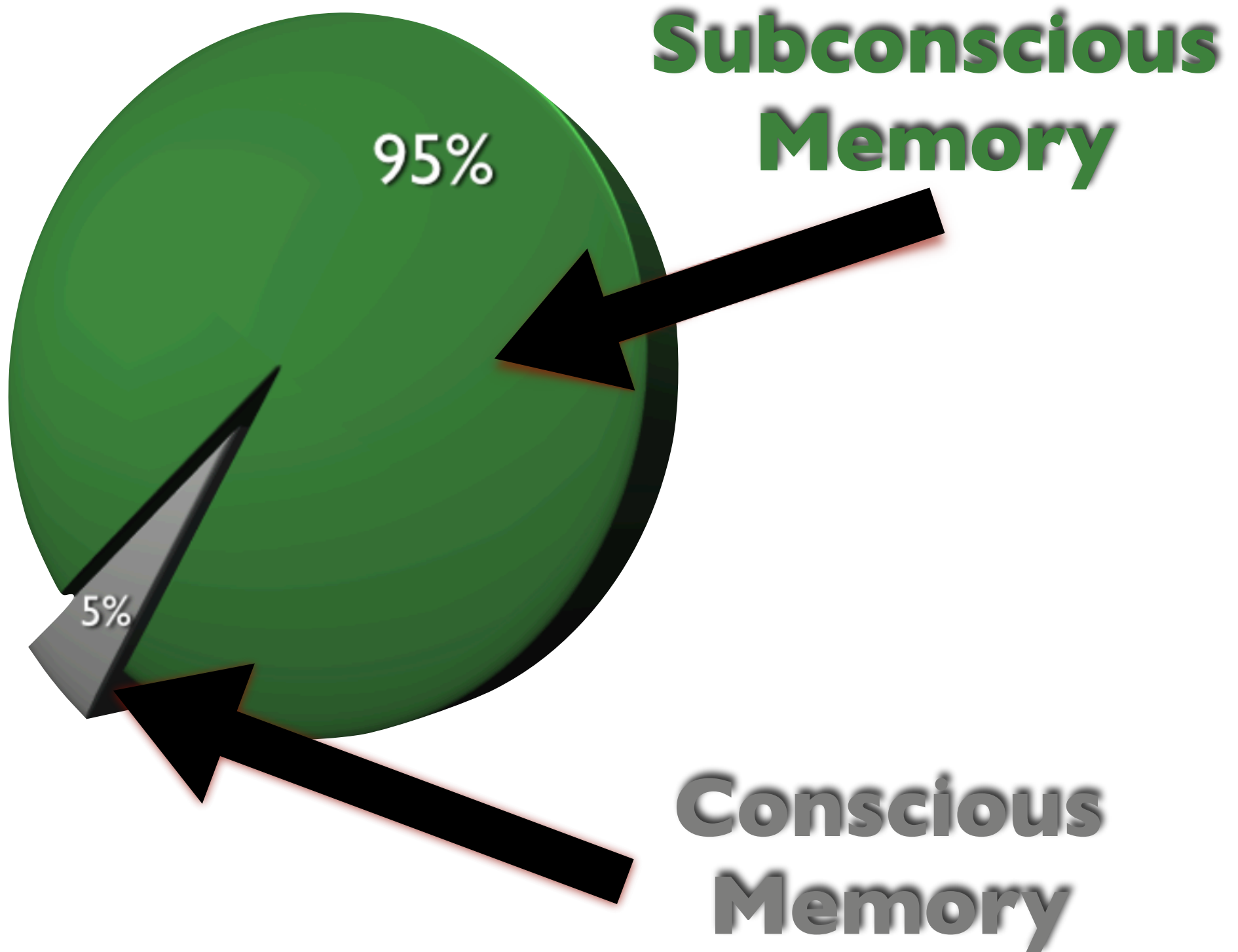
Hair can stand up on
the back of your neck.

Your internal voice
talks to you.

Gut Feeling

Your Red Flag Warning System

Intuition



Prediction

**Anticipating
future events
before they
happen.**

Target Outcome

**Begin...
with the end
in mind.**

Visualization

**Mentally
visualize
the task.**

**Visualize the
Flowpath**

Anticipation

**What could
happen...**

If...

**My situational
awareness is
impacted?**

Expectations

**What are the
possible
undesired
outcomes?**

Role

**What role do
I play in preventing
an undesired
outcome?**

Conditions

**Are the
conditions
right for me
to take action?**

Conditions

**How are
changing
conditions or
stored energy
impacting
my safety?**

Resources

**Do I have
the right
resources
to get the task
completed
safely?**

Five situational awarenesses

1. Personal Awareness
2. Team Awareness
3. Resource Awareness
4. Jobsite Awareness
5. Shared Awareness

Time

**How much
time should
this task take
to complete?**

To predict the future...



To predict the future...



Situational Awareness Barriers



Pre-Awareness

Expectations before the work begins

Distractions & Interruptions

Task Fixation

Mission Myopia

Pressures

Deadlines

Supervisors

Peers

Social

Shared Awareness

Urgency

Fear

A lineman may
fear speaking up...

even though they've
been told it's ok to do.

Routine/
Boredom

Environmental factors

Over Confidence

Complacency

Situational Awareness Development Process

Perception

Gather information:

Look + listen + smell
+ feel + taste

Understanding

**Tap into your conscious &
unconscious knowledge**

Decide

Determine your course of action.

Predict

Visualize the outcome of
your decision prior
to implementation.

Act

If the predicted outcome
of your decision is good:

Implement the course of action.

Act

If the predicted outcome of your action is NOT good:

Evaluate another course of action.

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**Helping you see the bad things coming...
in time to prevent bad outcomes.**