

Cranial Nerve		Major Functions		Assessment
Cranial Nerve I	Olfactory	Sensory	Smell	Smell—coffee, cloves, peppermint
Cranial Nerve II	Optic	Sensory	Vision	Visual acuity—Snellen chart (cover eye not being examined) Test for visual fields Examine with ophthalmoscope
Cranial Nerve III	Oculomotor	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Eyelid and eyeball movement	Move eye up, down, and peripherally Test for accommodation Pupillary constriction Observe for ptosis of upper eyelid
Cranial Nerve IV	Trochlear	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Innervates superior oblique eye muscle Turns eye downward and laterally	Inferior lateral movement of the eye
Cranial Nerve V	Trigeminal	Sensory and Motor	Chewing Face and mouth touch and pain	Corneal reflex Sensation of skin of the face (eyebrow, cheeks and chin) by using a wisp of cotton Chewing, biting, lateral jaw movements (move jaw side to side)
Cranial Nerve VI	Abducens	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Turns eye laterally Proprioception (sensory awareness of part of the body)	Inferior lateral eye movements
Cranial Nerve VII	Facial	Sensory and Motor	Controls most facial expressions Secretion of ears and saliva	Taste—anterior two thirds of tongue; sweet—sugar; salty; sour—lemon; bitter (rinse mouth between applications) Movement of forehead and mouth Raise eyebrows, show teeth, smile, and puff out cheeks
Cranial Nerve VIII	Vestibulocochlear (auditory)	Sensory	Hearing Equilibrium sensation	Hearing, balance Weber and Rinne tests Otoscope
Cranial Nerve IX	Glossopharyngeal	Sensory and Motor	Taste Senses carotid blood pressure Muscle sense – proprioception, sensory awareness of the body	Swallowing and phonation Taste—posterior one third of tongue; see cranial nerve VII
Cranial Nerve X	Vagus	Sensory and Motor	Senses aortic blood pressure Slows heart rate Stimulates digestive organs Taste	Sensations of posterior one third of tongue, throat. Gag reflex (stimulate back of pharynx with a tongue blade) Swallowing and phonation
Cranial Nerve XI	Spinal Accessory	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Controls trapezius and sternocleidomastoid controls swallowing movements Muscle sense - proprioception	Shoulder movement, shoulder shrug, head rotation—push against examiner's hand
Cranial Nerve XII	Hypoglossal	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Controls tongue movements Muscle sense - proprioception	Tongue movement—protrude tongue, push tongue into the cheek

(Berman, Snyder, Kozier & Erb, 2008; Jarvis, 2008).