

Public Speaking Course, Spring 2026



Student: _____ Class: _____

Unit 5: Appealing to Senses & Using Figures of Speech

I. Read and listen to the following speech and fill in the blanks with the words you hear:

Sensory Image	Speech Script: "My 24 Hours Without Social Media"
	"Last week, I decided to quit social media for 24 hours. At first, I just sat on my bed, staring at my phone. The screen was _____ and silent. I could see my own _____ face reflected in the glass – pale eyes, _____ hair, and a blank expression.
	"Without Douyin or WeChat, the room became very _____. I could hear the old _____ on the wall ticking – <i>tick, tick, tick</i> . Then I heard my own _____ growling. And worst of all? I heard my own thoughts. They were loud and nervous, like a radio that wouldn't turn off."
	"I picked up my phone without thinking. My fingers touched the _____, smooth glass. But I didn't open any app. I just held it. The edges of my phone case felt _____ and cheap. My thumb kept moving by itself, searching for something to scroll."
	"After six hours, a strange feeling started in my chest. It was not _____. It was cold. A lonely, cold feeling, like someone had put an _____ inside my heart. My hands were also cold. I wanted to open WeChat just to feel _____ again."
	"By midnight, I was still awake. My mouth was _____. I drank some water, but it had no taste. Then I realized – the taste in my mouth was the taste of boredom. _____, plain, and uncomfortable. Like drinking tea that has been left out all day."
	"At 2 a.m., I finally got up to make instant noodles. The smell filled my small dorm room – _____, like hot ocean water, mixed with the cheap smell of _____ and dry vegetables. It was the only good thing I had experienced all day. I closed my eyes and just breathed it in."

"The next morning, I couldn't stay inside anymore. I ran _____ the stairs – two steps at a time. I jumped _____ a sleeping cat near the door. I walked _____ to the campus lake, then stopped. The world outside was moving. Cars, people, birds. For the first time in 24 hours, I felt like I was moving with them, not just watching a screen."

"And here is the strangest part. When I finally opened WeChat again, the red notification _____ did not just look _____. They felt warm, like holding a hot _____ on a cold day. And the sound of the notification – that little *ding* – tasted _____, like the first bite of _____ in summer. I know that sounds crazy. But that is what 24 hours without social media does to you."

"So yes, I opened WeChat again. The red notifications felt like a reward. But I also learned something: boredom has a taste. Silence has a smell. And a notification can be sweet. Maybe that's okay."

II. Go back to the script and find out which type of sensory image is used in every paragraph. Write the answer in the box in front of each paragraph:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • Synesthesia | • Thermal |
| • Olfactory | • Auditory |
| • Tactile | • Kinetic |
| • Gustatory | • Visual |

III. Read the script again and find short examples of each sensory image:

Sensory Image	Example from the script
Visual:	_____
Auditory:	_____
Tactile:	_____
Thermal:	_____
Gustatory:	_____
Olfactory:	_____
Kinetic:	_____
Synesthesia:	_____

