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Crash Course Anatomy & Physiology #10: The Nervous System Part 3 – Synapses

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. A _____ is the junction between two neurons where communication occurs.
2. The _____ neuron sends the signal across the synapse.
3. The neuron receiving the signal is called the _____ neuron.
4. The tiny space between neurons at the synapse is called the _____.
5. A(n) _____ synapse sends messages via ion current flowing through gap junctions.
6. The more common type of synapse that uses neurotransmitters is the _____ synapse.
7. Chemical messengers that transmit signals across a synapse are called _____.
8. The release of neurotransmitters is triggered by _____ ions entering the presynaptic terminal.
9. Neurotransmitters are released from sac-like structures called _____ vesicles.
10. A neurotransmitter that increases the chance of firing in the postsynaptic neuron is called _____.
11. A neurotransmitter that decreases the chance of firing in the postsynaptic neuron is called _____.
12. The process of taking neurotransmitters back into the presynaptic neuron is called _____.
13. The excitatory neurotransmitter involved in pleasure and reward is _____.
14. Cocaine creates its effects mainly by blocking the _____ of dopamine.
15. The strength of a synapse can change over time in response to use, a feature called _____.

Crash Course Anatomy & Physiology #10: The Nervous System Part 3 – Synapses KEY

1. A **synapse** is the junction between two neurons where communication occurs.
2. The **presynaptic** neuron sends the signal across the synapse.
3. The neuron receiving the signal is called the **postsynaptic** neuron.
4. The tiny space between neurons at the synapse is called the **synaptic cleft**.
5. An **electrical** synapse sends messages via ion current flowing through gap junctions.
6. The more common type of synapse that uses neurotransmitters is the **chemical** synapse.
7. Chemical messengers that transmit signals across a synapse are called **neurotransmitters**.
8. The release of neurotransmitters is triggered by **calcium** ions entering the presynaptic terminal.
9. Neurotransmitters are released from sac-like structures called **synaptic vesicles**.
10. A neurotransmitter that increases the chance of firing in the postsynaptic neuron is called **excitatory**.
11. A neurotransmitter that decreases the chance of firing in the postsynaptic neuron is called **inhibitory**.
12. The process of taking neurotransmitters back into the presynaptic neuron is called **reuptake**.
13. The excitatory neurotransmitter involved in pleasure and reward is **dopamine**.
14. Cocaine creates its effects mainly by blocking the **reuptake** of dopamine.
15. The strength of a synapse can change over time in response to use, a feature called **plasticity**.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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