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The Nervous System



Photo Credit: The Emirr

What is the nervous system?

The **nervous system** is a collection of nerves that work together to carry messages back and forth from the body to the brain and spinal cord. These signals allow you walk, run, talk, see, hear, feel, think and survive. Without the nervous system, we'd be nothing.

What are the different parts of the nervous system?

There are two main parts to the nervous system.

Interesting Facts!

- The brain makes up two percent of the human body's weight.
- The longest nerve in the human body is 1 m (3.3 feet) long!

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- 2) The **peripheral nervous system (PNS)** is made of all the nerves that go from the spinal cord to the rest of your body like your arms and legs. These nerves send signals from your brain telling your arms to move, your heart to beat faster, etc. They are also responsible for sending signals to the brain about the outside world (seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting).

Nervous System: A collection of nerves that work together to carry messages from the body to and from the brain and spinal cord.

Central Nervous System: Where all the thinking and deciding occurs. The spinal cord also relays information around the body.

Peripheral Nervous System: Responsible for taking in information and carrying out instructions (example: moving)

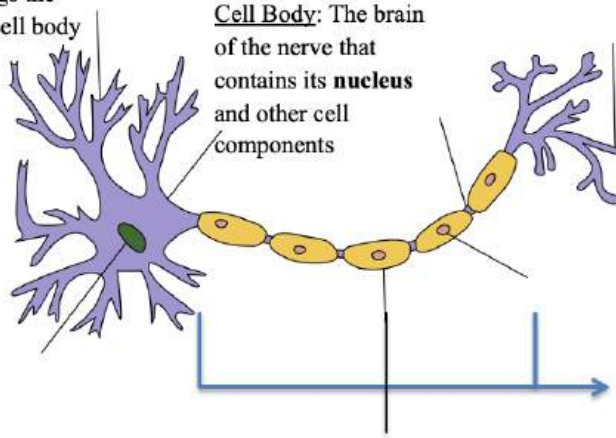
Nerves (Neurons)

Nerves or neurons are the working part of the nervous system. They are the cells that transmit the messages around the body. Nerves are made up of:

Dendrites: Receives messages from other nerves, muscles or the outside world. Brings the information to the cell body

Cell Body: The brain of the nerve that contains its **nucleus** and other cell components

Photo Credit: Quasar Jarosz



Myelin sheath: A protective fatty coat around the axon that allows the message to travel faster.

Axon: A long projection from the cell body. Messages travel down the axon, away from the cell body.

How does the nervous system talk with the rest of the body?

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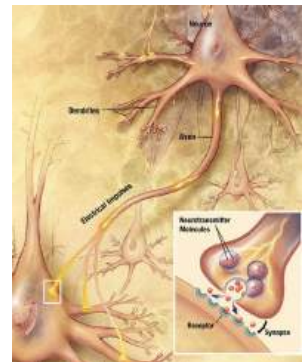
Diseases of the nervous system:

Each part of your brain has a job. If that part of the brain is damaged by impact or disease, it may not be able to do its job anymore and this can lead to serious effects.

Concussions – When hit hard, your brain will smack into the inside of your skull, which can lead to damage.

Stroke – If blood vessels are blocked, oxygen can't reach the brain. If left long enough, the brain will die.

Brain Cancer – Brain cells change due to a **mutation** and no longer function properly.



A nerve signaling another nerve by releasing its neurotransmitters

Nucleus: The part of the cell that contains DNA. DNA codes for everything that is you.

Mutation: Change in the DNA. Changing your DNA may prevent the area of the body from working properly.

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What
2. What are the two main parts of the nervous system?
3. Regarding question #2,
4. What part of the nerve carries the message away from the cell body? What part of the nerve carries the message towards the cell body?
5. How

Extension Questions:

6. Come up with a real-life analogy between the CNS and the PNS.
7. What
8. What are

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TWF READING

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