

Neuroscience Glossary

Learn the language of the brain!



A Axon

A long, slender part of a neuron that carries electrical messages away from the cell body.



B Brain

The control center of the body that processes information and performs functions like thinking, feeling, and voluntary movements.



C Cortex

The wrinkled outer layer of the brain, that is responsible for higher thinking, feelings, and voluntary movements.



F Electroencephalogram

A test that uses special sensors placed on the forehead, responsible for planning, decision-making, problem-solving, and controlling emotions.



D Dendrite

Short, branch-like parts of a neuron that receive messages from other neurons.



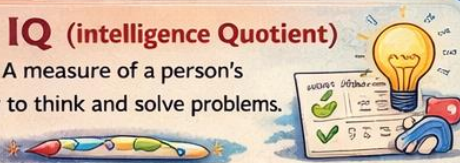
G Glia

Support cells in the brain that help protect, nourish, and support neurons:



I IQ (intelligence Quotient)

A measure of a person's ability to think and solve problems.



H Hippocampus

A part deep inside the brain shaped like a seahorse that is important for forming and recalling memories.



J Judgment

The ability to make decisions and recognize right from wrong.



K Keyhole Surgery

A surgery where doctors make tiny holes to use special tools and a camera to operate inside the brain without making large cuts.



L Limbic System

A group of structures in the brain involved in emotions, memory, and motivation.



M Memory

The brain's ability to store, recall, and use information learned and experienced.



N Neuron

A nerve cell that acts as a messenger in the brain and nervous system.



O Visual Cortex

The part of the brain at the occipital lobe at the back of the head that processes visual information.



KEEP EXPLORING—YOU'RE LEARNING SOMETHING AMAZING!

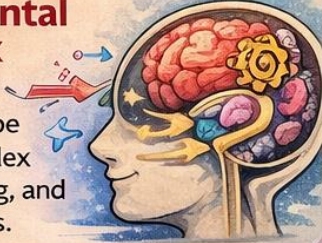
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P to Z



P Prefrontal Cortex

The front part of the frontal lobe involved in complex thinking, planning, and making decisions.



Q Question

What scientists and curious minds ask to learn new things.



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R Reflex

An automatic, fast reaction that occurs without thinking, like pulling your hand away from something hot.



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T Thalamus

The part of the brain that acts like a relay station, passing information between the brain and the body.



S Synapse

The tiny gap between neurons where chemical messages pass from one neuron to another.



U Unconscious

A state of deep sleep or being unaware of your surroundings and not able to respond.



X X-Ray

A special picture that lets doctors see the inside of the body, including the bones of the skull.



V Visual Cortex

The part of the brain in the occipital lobe at the back of the head that processes what we see.



Y Yawn

The involuntary act of opening your mouth wide and taking a deep breath often when sleepy or bored.



Z ZZZ (Sleep)

The period when the brain rests and processes information it learned during the day.



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