

# Nervous System Vocabulary

autonomic nervous system	system of nerves that control involuntary functions
axon	part of neuron that takes information away from a cell body
brain	controls mental and physical actions, located in the cranium (skull)
brain stem	part of brain near spinal cord; controls reflexes, breathing, and heartbeat
cerebellum	large portion of the brain, controls voluntary motions
cerebrum	largest part of the brain, controls voluntary movements and mental actions
dendrites	part of a neuron that brings information to a cell body
nerves	bundle of fibers that send impulses from the brain to other parts of the body
neurons	specialized, impulse-conducting cells (composed of cell body, axon, dendrites)
peripheral nervous system	lies outside brain and spinal cord, includes nerves to arms, legs, and sense organs
relay	to transmit a signal
signals	messages sent from brain to nerves
spinal cord	cord of nerve tissue extending through the spinal column
spinal nerve	nerves that start in the spinal cord
stimuli	something that causes an action (example-stimulus: hot stove, response: moving hand away from hot stove)
synapse	place where nerve messages are sent and received