

Central nervous system (CNS)

The part of the nervous system made up of the brain and spinal cord.

Neurone

Nerve cells. They carry an electrical message or impulse when stimulated.

Synapse

A tiny gap at the junction between two nerve cells, which nerve signals must cross.

Hormone

A chemical messenger produced in glands and carried by the blood to specific organs in the body.



Gland

An organ or tissue that makes a substance for release, such as a hormone.



Pituitary gland

An endocrine gland that is located just below the centre of the brain. It releases a number of important hormones.

Oestrogen

A female sex hormone produced in the ovaries, which is responsible for puberty in girls and the regulation of the menstrual cycle.



Menstrual cycle

A recurring series of events in the human female reproductive system.



Homeostasis

The maintenance of steady conditions. The ability of the body to maintain a constant internal environment, e.g. temperature and blood glucose concentration.

Hypothalamus

The part of the brain that detects changes in blood temperature and water concentration.



Osmosis

The movement of water molecules across a selectively permeable membrane from a region of higher water concentration to a region of lower water concentration.



Auxins

Plant hormones that control cell elongation.

Tropism

A growth response in a plant to a one-directional stimulus.



Stimulus

Any change in the environment that can be detected by receptors in an organism.



Gibberellin

A plant hormone involved in germination, flowering and fruit formation.