



The Keys to Brain Power!

MODULE 1: VOCABULARY LIST



Axon [ak-son]—The part of the neuron that sends messages to other neurons.

Brain Stem—The part of the brain that is in charge of many of the body's basic functions, including sleep, heart rate, and digestion.

Cell Body—The part of a neuron that controls the neuron's activities.

Cerebellum [ser-uh-bel-uhm]—The part of the brain that controls sense of balance, coordination, posture, and movement.

Cerebral cortex [suh-ree-bruhl kawr-tekks]—The part of the brain that is responsible for higher level thinking and helping us understand the world around us. It is the biggest part of the brain and is divided into four lobes (parietal, frontal, temporal, and occipital) and two hemispheres (left and right).

Dendrites [den-drahyts]—The parts of the neuron that receive messages from other neurons. Receptors for neurotransmitters are located on the dendrites.

Frontal lobe—The part of the cerebral cortex that is in charge of decision-making, problem-solving, and higher thinking.

Hemisphere [hem-iss-feer]—The halves that make up the brain. The two hemispheres in the brain are the left and right hemispheres.

Hypothalamus [hahy-puh-thal-uh-muhs]—The part of the brain that regulates body temperature, hunger, and thirst.

Left hemisphere [hem-iss-feer]—The half of the brain that controls the right side of the body and is in charge of solving problems and comparing information, making decisions, and language.

Limbic system [lim-bik]—The part of the brain that is in charge of learning, memory, and emotion.

Lobe—Sections of the brain that make up the cerebral cortex. The four lobes of the brain are the parietal, frontal, temporal, and occipital lobes.

Myelin sheath [mahy-uh-lin sheeth]—The outer layer of the axon that helps messages travel faster and easier during neurotransmission.

Neurons [noor-ons]—Cells in the brain.

Neurotransmission [noor-oh-trans-mish-uhn]—The process that neurons use to communicate with each other.

Neurotransmitters [noor-oh-trans-mit-ters]—The chemical messengers that carry information between neurons.

Occipital lobe [ok-sip-i-tl]—The part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for sense of sight (seeing).

Parietal lobe [puh-rah-y-i-tl]—The part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for sense of touch (feeling).

Right hemisphere [hem-iss-feer]—The half of the brain that controls the left side of the body and is in charge of artistic expression and understanding relationships between objects, like reading a map.

Synapse [sin-aps]—The space between neurons across which neurotransmitters travel to carry information from one neuron to the next.

Temporal lobe [tem-per-uhl]—The part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for sense of sound (hearing).