



The Keys to Brain Power!

MODULE 5: VOCABULARY LIST



Addiction—After using a drug, a person's brain may change, causing the person to need the drug in to feel normal. There are several components of addiction, including withdrawal, tolerance, and compulsive use.

Cocaine [*ko-kane*]—A very addictive drug that works by attaching to dopamine receptors in the brain, causing the user to experience feelings of well-being and pleasure.

Compulsive use—A strong need to use a drug, even if bad things happen.

Dopamine [*dope-uh-meen*]—A neurotransmitter in the brain that carries messages about feelings of well-being and pleasure.

Heroin [*hair-o-inn*]—A very addictive drug that causes severe symptoms of withdrawal if drug use is stopped.

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

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

Placebo [*pluh-see-boh*]—A nonaddictive substance, such as a mixture of sugar and water, that is given to the control group to compare behaviors seen in the experimental group.

Receptor [*ree-sep-ter*]—The part of a neuron that is involved in carrying information during neurotransmission.

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

Tolerance—The need for stronger doses to achieve the same effect. A person experiences tolerance when they are addicted to a drug.

Withdrawal—The feeling of discomfort, sickness, or unhappiness a person addicted to drugs experiences when they do not use the drug.