

Lesson 2.1 The Brain – Key Terms

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| Brain Stem  | The part of the brain composed of the midbrain, pons, and medulla oblongata and connecting the spinal cord with the forebrain and cerebrum.  |
| Central nervous system  | The part of the nervous system which in vertebrates consists of the brain and spinal cord, to which sensory impulses are transmitted and from which motor impulses pass out, and which supervises and coordinates the activity of the entire nervous system. |
| Cerebellum  | A large dorsally projecting part of the brain concerned especially with the coordination of muscles and the maintenance of bodily equilibrium, situated between the brain stem and the back of the cerebrum and formed in humans of two lateral lobes and a median lobe. |
| Cerebrum  | The dorsal portion, composed of right and left hemispheres, of the vertebrate forebrain; the integrating center for memory, learning, emotions, and other highly complex function of the central nervous system. |
| Gyrus  | A convoluted ridge on the brain that increases surface area. |
| Limbic System  | A group of subcortical structures (as the hypothalamus, the hippocampus, and the amygdala) of the brain that are concerned especially with emotion and motivation.  |
| Lobe  | A division of a body organ (as the brain, lungs, or liver) marked off by a fissure on the surface. |
| Peripheral nervous system  | The part of the nervous system that is outside the central nervous system and comprises the cranial nerves excepting the optic nerve, the spinal nerves, and the autonomic nervous system.  |
| Phrenology  | The study of the conformation of the skull based on the belief that it is indicative of mental faculties and character. |
| Sulcus  | A shallow furrow on the surface of the brain separating adjacent gyri. |