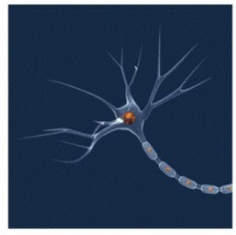
Neurons



- **A nerve cell or neuron is the basic unit of structure and function of the nervous system since it sends messages/impulses from the brain to other parts of the body.**

  For example, when you touch something hot, nerves quickly send a message to your brain that it's hot so you can move your hand away. Nerves help you feel sensations, move your muscles, and even think and learn! They are like the body's communication system, making sure everything works together smoothly.

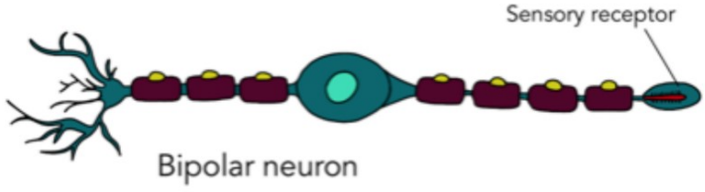
- **3 Types**

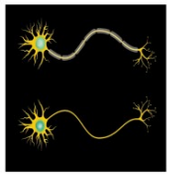
  > **1) Sensory Neurons: connect the sense organs to the central nervous system**

  > **2) Motor Neurons: carry messages from the central nervous system to muscles and glands throughout the body**

  > **3) Interneurons: carry information between two neurons (sensory and motor neurons)**

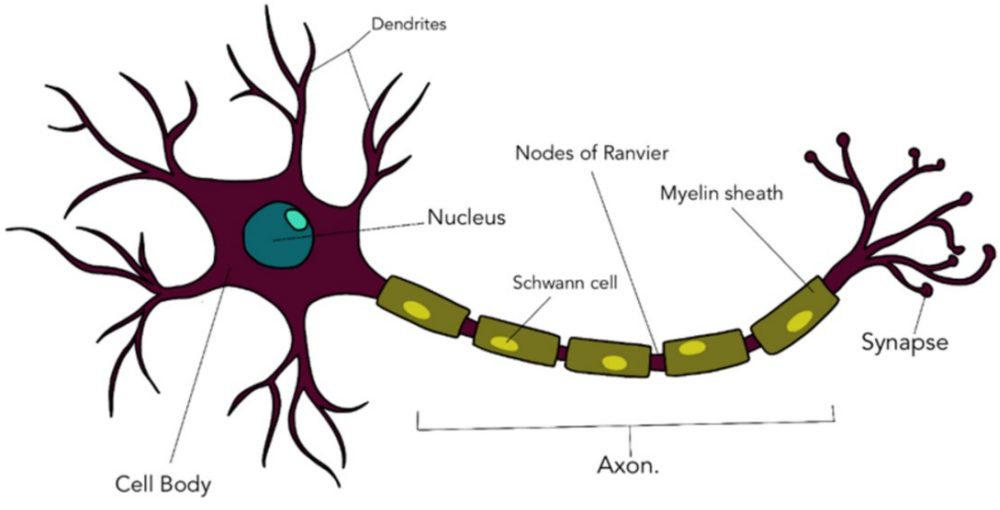
What Are Neurons and How Do They Work? - YouTube

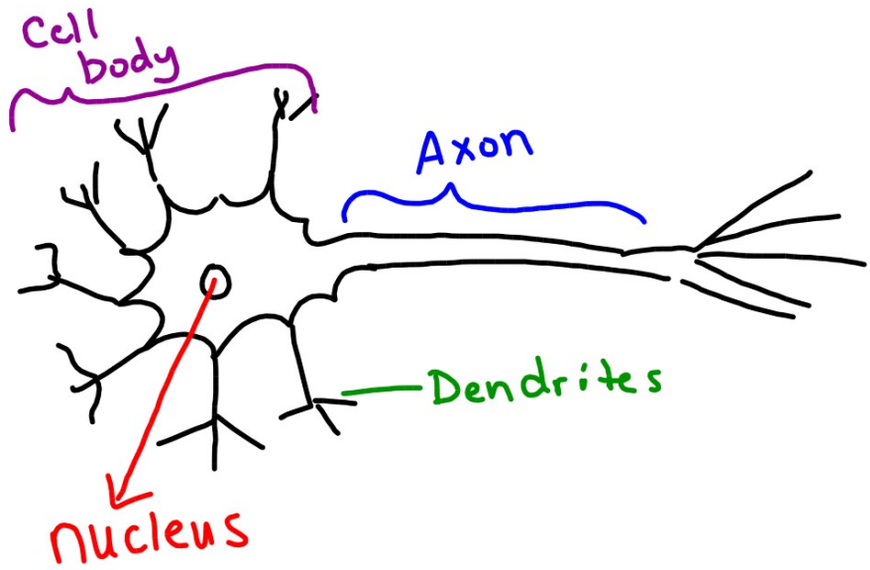




Parts of a Neuron

- **Cell body**: has tiny tubelike branches called dendrites
- **Dendrites:** receive messages from the environment
- **Axon:** a tubelike extension of the cell body




Cell body
Axon
Dendrites
Nucleus

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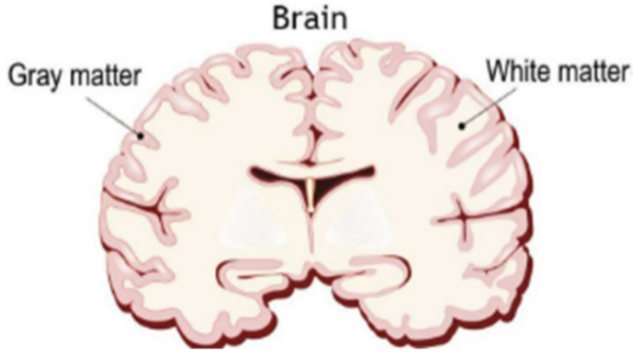
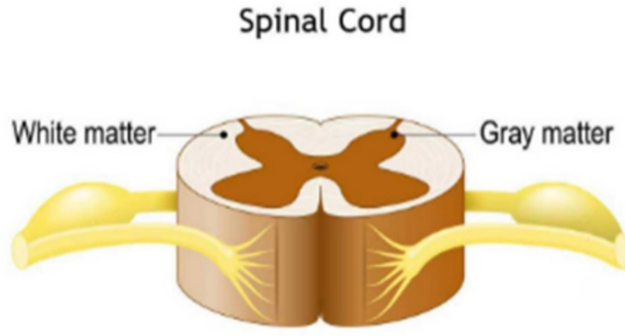

Brain
Gray matter
White matter


Spinal Cord
White matter
Gray matter

Spinal Cord

Structure

- Part of the central nervous system
- Begins at the base of the skull and extends throughout most of the backbone
- A cylinder of nerve tissue about 45 cm long
- Surrounded by membranes called meninges