



How Do Neurons Communicate?

Vocabulary

Cell: The basic building block of life: all living things (including you!) are made of cells.

Neuron: A type of cell that sends information about the environment between the brain and body. Neurons let living things (including you!) think, feel and do.

Dendrites: The part of a neuron that receives information (from another neuron or sensory organ).

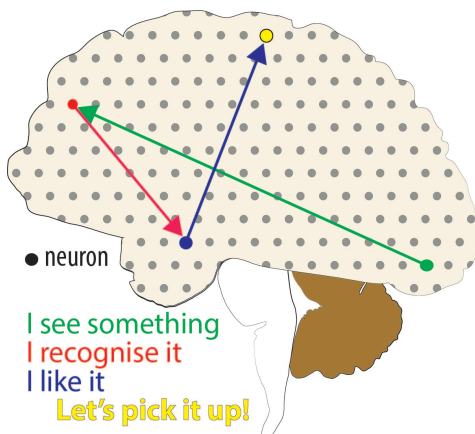
Cell body: The part of a neuron where information is read.

Axon: The part of a neuron where information is sent (to a neuron, muscle or gland).

Network: A group of neurons that are connected together so that they can send information to each other.

Micrometer (μm): A really small size! There are 1000 micrometers (μm) in 1 millimeter (mm). Big neurons are 100 μm wide. So 10 really big neurons in a row would be 1 mm long on your ruler; it would be hard to see them!

Glia: Also called glial cells, support neurons to keep them healthy.



Fact of the Day

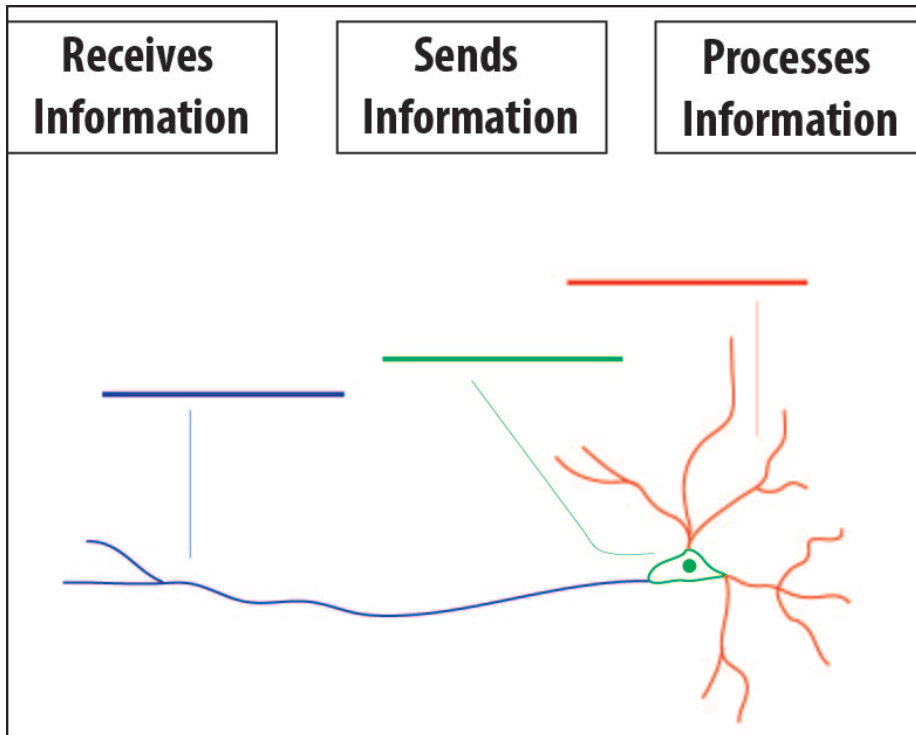
The average brain neuron sends information signals at 100-150 m/s and makes 70 connections. No wonder you can think so fast!

Quiz!

1. Where are the longest cells in your body found? (Hint: they are neurons!)

2. Neurons communicate with electrical and chemical signals: *true or false?*

3. Match up the right parts and their function to this neuron!



Answers:

1. *Leg*
2. *True*
3.
 - a. *Dendrite (right) – receives information*
 - b. *Cell body (middle) – processes information*
 - c. *Axon (left) – sends information*