

# CHAPTER 40 THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS

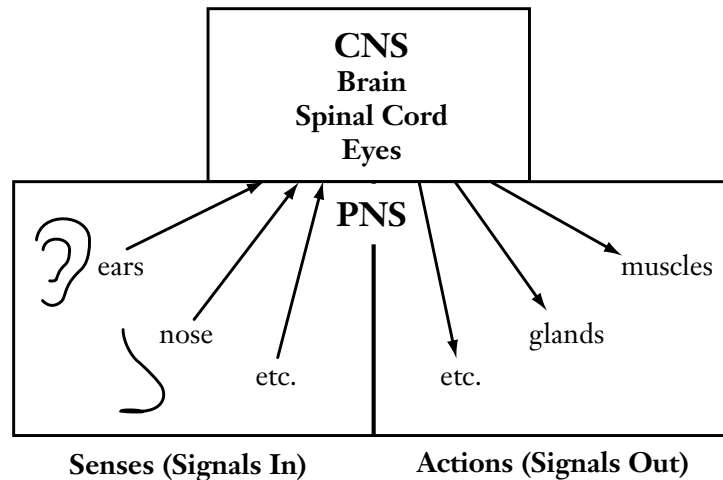
## Get the Big Picture

Read the paragraphs in the boxes and look at the diagram. Then answer the questions.

The **nervous system** gives directions to all the other systems in your body. It also gets information from your senses, and keeps track of how well the different parts of your body are working together. The nervous system is made up of two parts: the **central nervous system** (CNS), and the **peripheral nervous system** (PNS). Peripheral just means “not central.” Your brain and spinal cord make up your CNS, and send and receive messages through your PNS.

Your senses allow you to perceive the world by seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling. Your sense organs collect information about the world and send it to your brain. The brain decodes the signals and makes them meaningful.

Many drugs act to disrupt the normal functioning of the nervous system. Drugs can change your mood, perception, and your brain’s ability to think and to control the rest of your body.



1. Which part of the nervous system is your brain in? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which part of the nervous system do the nerves in your skin belong to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. You may not think that caffeine is a drug, but it is. When you drink a soda that contains caffeine, you may feel “jittery.” Why do you think this is? \_\_\_\_\_  
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