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THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

The nervous system is the master coordinating system of the body. Every thought, action, and sensation reflects its activity. The structures of the nervous system are described in terms of two principal divisions—the central nervous system (CNS) and the peripheral nervous system (PNS). The CNS (brain and spinal cord) interprets incoming sensory information and issues instructions based on past experience. The PNS (cranial and spinal nerves and ganglia) provides the communication lines between the CNS and the body's muscles, glands, and sensory receptors. The nervous system is also divided functionally in terms of motor activities into the somatic and autonomic divisions. It is important, however, to recognize that these classifications are made for the sake of convenience and that the nervous system acts in an integrated manner both structurally and functionally.

Student activities provided in this chapter review nervous anatomy and physiology. Identify the various structures of the central and peripheral nervous system, consider reflex and sensory physiology, and summarize autonomic nervous system anatomy and physiology. Because every body system is controlled, at least in part, by the nervous system, these understandings are extremely important to understanding how the body functions as a whole.

1. List the three major functions of the nervous system.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Chapter 7 The Nervous System Study Guide Answer Key