Acetylcholine: one of the best-understood neurotransmitters; enables muscle action, learning, and memory; the messenger at every junction between a motor neuron and skeletal muscle.

Candace Pert and Solomon Snyder: attached a radioactive tracer to morphine, showing where it was taken up in the brain. The morphine bound to receptors in areas linked with mood and pain sensations.

Endorphins: "morphpine within" - natural, opiate-like neurotransmitters linked to pain control and pleasure.

Agonist: mimics neurotransmitter (ex. morphine mimics the action of endorphins).

Antagonist: blocks neurotransmitter (ex. curare poisoning paralyzes victims by blocking cholinergic receptors involved in muscle movement).

When some drugs mimic neurotransmitters, the body stops making them. When the neuron actually fires it is called the action potential, which moves only in one direction.