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

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

Antagonist: blocks neurotransmitter (ex. curare poisoning paralyzes victim by blocking synapses 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. Moves only in one direction.