Dopaminergic Pathways

- Neurons are found in the brainstem and neurotransmitters are released into the cortex.
- Ventral tegmental area; cortex and areas are associated with pleasure.
- Associated with catecholamines:
  - Dopamine, noradrenaline, adrenaline
- Release of dopamine increases when doing something enjoyable; more than 10x as powerful.

Tyrosine → L-Dopa (pre-cursor for dopamine) → Dopamine → Noradrenaline

Serotonergic System

- Serotonin: drugs that block re-uptake are used to treat depression, tension, and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

GABA
- Main inhibitory neurotransmitter in the brain.
- Effect of benzodiazepines (Valium, Xanax) links with the GABA-A receptor so results in more inhibition.