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

→ Endorphins: "morphine within" - natural, opiate-like neurotransmitters linked to pain control + to pleasure

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

→ Antagonist: blocks neurotransmitter (ex. Curare poisoning paralyzes victim by blocking ACh receptors involved in muscle movement)

When some drugs mimic neurotransmitters, the body stops m
t

* When the neuron actually fires it is called the action potential.
  → moves only in one direction