**addiction (noun)**: a brain disorder or illness associated with compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior, such as drug use, despite negative consequences

**adolescence (noun)**: the period of life when a person develops from a child into an adult

**automatic (adjective)**: working mostly or completely by itself

**binge (noun)**: the act of doing something in an excessive or uncontrolled manner

**chemical (noun)**: a substance, such as an element or a mix of elements (compound), that is made by a chemical process

**consequence (noun)**: a result or outcome

**consume (verb)**: to eat, drink, or use up something

**crave (verb)**: to have a strong desire for something

**critical (adjective)**: important or necessary

**develop (verb)**: to grow or cause something to grow larger or more advanced

**development (noun)**: the act or process of growing or causing something to become larger or more advanced

**dopamine (noun)**: a neurotransmitter chemical that helps transmit signals in the brain and is associated with feelings of pleasure

**expose (verb)**: to make something accessible (open) to the action or influence of something else

**function (verb)**: to carry out an action

**gratification (noun)**: a reward or the feeling of pleasure or being rewarded

**impact (noun)**: a significant or powerful effect

**independent (adjective)**: not relying on or needing others for support or care

**intense (adjective)**: having a very strong or extreme degree of something

**key (adjective)**: extremely important

**limbic system (noun)**: a set of five different brain structures that together are involved in emotions and feelings, as well as learning and memory

**linked (adjective)**: connected

**network (noun)**: a group of things that are connected or related to each other

**neuron (noun)**: a nerve cell that carries messages between the brain and other parts of the body

**outcome (noun)**: a result

**prefrontal cortex (noun)**: the front part of the frontal lobe area of the brain that is involved in complex decision making and thinking

**process (verb)**: to go through a series of actions that lead to a certain result

**release (verb)**: to allow out; to set free

**risk (noun)**: the possibility of loss or injury; danger

**seek (verb)**: to look for or to go in search for

**sensitive (adjective)**: to be highly responsive or able to be affected by something

**session (noun)**: a period of time set aside for a certain activity

**substance (noun)**: a material with a specific chemical makeup

**surge (noun)**: a sudden increase to a high level

**synapse (noun)**: the structure between neurons (nerve cells) that allows a signal to be transmitted between the neurons

**tackle (verb)**: to deal with or handle a situation

**transmit (verb)**: to send from one person, place, or thing to another

**underdeveloped (adjective)**: not normally or fully developed

**vulnerable (adjective)**: able to be hurt or damaged

**weigh (verb)**: to think about something carefully in order to make a decision