

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