

**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