

HEADS UP REAL NEWS ABOUT DRUGS AND YOUR BODY



Cause and Effect

How drugs change the brain

Drugs of abuse cause changes in the brain that affect the way the drug user thinks and feels. Remember, some of these brain changes may last forever! The human brain may make new connections around damaged portions, but once killed, brain cells are gone forever.

After reading "Drugs Change Your Brain," pick up a pencil and draw a line connecting each drug, below, to the effect it has on the brain. Then, in the blank beside each effect, write the part of the brain that's affected. Choose your answer from the box at the bottom of the page.

DRUG/CAUSES	EFFECTS	BRAIN PART
Marijuana	damage to language and planning skills	
MDMA (ecstasy)	high blood pressure	
Heroin	muscle spasms	
Inhalants	slowed breathing	
Cocaine	short-term memory loss	

BRAIN PART word choices:

Hippocampus
Brain stem

Brain blood supply
Cerebral cortex

Myelin sheath on neurons