

activate (*verb*): to make active or more active

addicted (*adjective*): having a compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior, such as drug use, that continues despite negative consequences

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

addictive (*adjective*): something, such as a drug, that causes changes to the brain that result in compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior despite negative consequences

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

analyze (*verb*): to study or examine something closely or carefully in order to understand it

bind (*verb*): to attach to something

biological (*adjective*): of or having to do with living things and their processes

cell (*noun*): the smallest unit that makes up a living organism. Some organisms are made of only one cell, but others, like humans, are made of trillions of cells.

characteristic (*noun*): a quality or trait that exists in a person, group, or thing

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

distinct (*adjective*): different or separate

DNA (*noun*): the molecule found in cells that carries instructions for cell structure and processes in the body. DNA contains genes that are passed on from parents to offspring and gives living things their inherited characteristics. The letters DNA stand for deoxyribonucleic acid.

environmental (*adjective*): of or having to do with the objects and conditions in a set of surroundings

factor (*noun*): something that helps to cause a result

gene (*noun*): a small section of DNA that contains the instructions for making a protein or proteins that control the processes that occur in the body's cells.

genetic (*adjective*): relating to, caused by, or controlled by genes

genetics (*noun*): the genetic makeup of an organism, a group of organisms, or a condition. Also, the scientific study of the ways that personal characteristics are passed from one generation to another through genes.

hereditary (*adjective*): passed on or able to be passed on from parent to offspring through genes

heredity (*noun*): the process by which genes and traits are passed from parent to offspring

influence (*verb*): to affect or change the properties or development of something

inherit (*verb*): to receive from a parent through the transmission (passing on) of genes

interact (*verb*): to act upon one another

likelihood (*noun*): probability of occurring

makeup (*noun*): the way in which the parts of something are put together

manipulate (*verb*): to control, use, or change something in a skillful way

nicotine (*noun*): the addictive chemical found in tobacco

pedigree (*noun*): the history of a family's genes or traits. Pedigrees are represented in a chart and indicate how traits are passed on from parent to offspring.

potentially (*adverb*): possible; being able to occur or develop

prevent (*verb*): to stop from happening

protective (*adjective*): providing a shield or cover from harm or damage

protein (*noun*): a substance found in all living things that is made of amino acids, which are composed mainly of nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen. Proteins have specific functions and are involved in nearly all important cell processes.

reduce (*verb*): to make smaller in size, amount, or number

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

segment (*noun*): one of the parts into which something is divided

slight (*adjective*): small

strategy (*noun*): a plan or method for reaching a certain goal

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

supervision (*noun*): the action of watching over and directing something or someone

susceptible (*adjective*): open or particularly prone to something

trait (*noun*): a quality or characteristic that makes one person different over another.

transition (*noun*): a change from one state, stage, or place to another

variant (*noun*): something that shows a difference from other things of the same type

vulnerability (*noun*): the state of being exposed or open to danger or harm