

The Nervous System

The nervous system acts as a continuous, complete unit, but is broken down into two parts for study: the Central Nervous System and the Peripheral Nervous System.

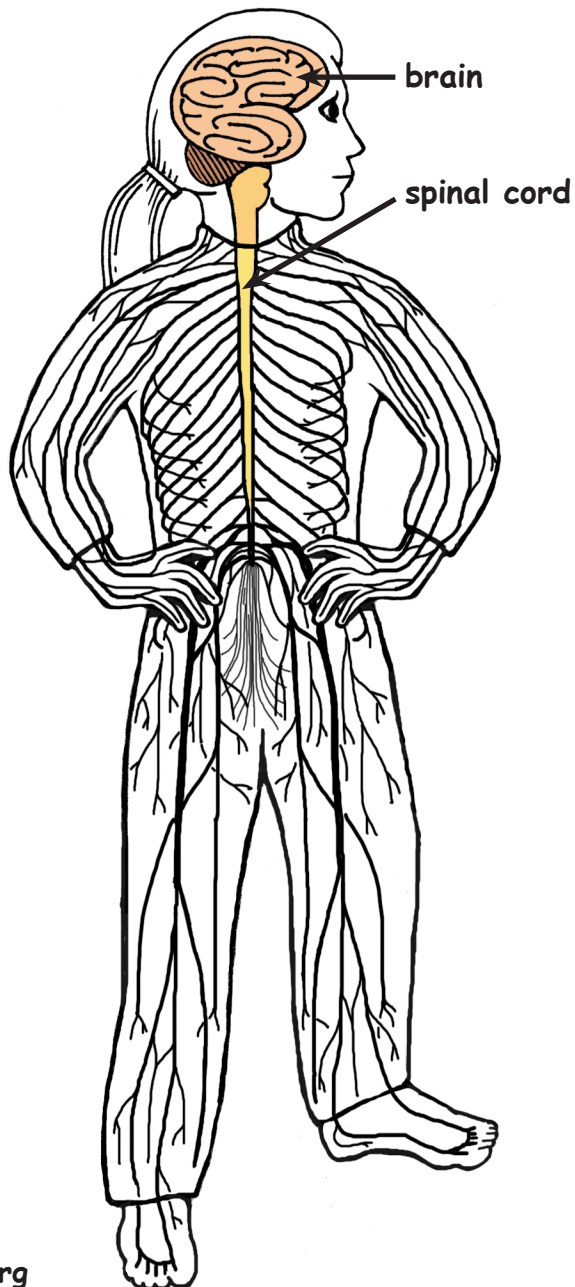
The Central Nervous System (CNS) includes the brain and spinal cord.

CNS Function:

Receives information, decides what to do with it and gives the orders for muscles or glands to act.

CNS Location:

The brain sits inside the skull and the spinal cord runs down the back inside the bony vertebral column.



The Peripheral Nervous System (PNS) includes all the nerves outside of the central nervous system.

PNS Function: Brings the messages into (sensory) and out of (motor) the central nervous system.

PNS Location: The peripheral nerves come off the spinal cord and brain.

