





Human Body Systems

The Nervous System

Purpose: detect, process, and respond to information. It controls body processes and coordination.

Major organs/structures: brain, nerve cells, spinal cord

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Lesson

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Human Body Systems Signals sent with hormones travel more slowly than the electrical signals of the nervous system. An electrical signal can travel from your head to your toes in less than one second. Signals sent by hormones have to travel through the blood stream and can take about 20 seconds to complete the trip.

Human Body Systems Examples of hormones at work: The parathyroid gland produces the parathyroid hormone to control calcium storage in your bones. It can cause the bones to take in excess calcium or release calcium if there is not enough in the blood. The pancreas release insulin that controls nutrient levels in the blood. The ovaries and testes release hormones that control puberty. The adrenal gland produces adrenaline when you are stresses. It increases heart rate, respiration, and prepares for muscle exertion.

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