

Synapses

Complete the notes below, filling in the blanks with the following terms

decrease

nanometres

released

receptor

diffuses

synapses

reabsorbed

presynaptic

impulses

chemical

touch

neurotransmitters

postsynaptic

binds

stimulates

- Neurons do not _____ each other – there is a tiny gap between one neuron and the next in a neural pathway. These gaps are called _____.
- Nerve _____ cannot cross these synapses: information is passed from one neuron to the next using _____ messengers called _____.
- When an impulse arrives at the end of the _____ neuron, the chemical messenger is _____ into the synapse.
- This chemical messenger _____ across the synapse: because the synapse is only about 20 _____ wide this takes a very short time.
- On the other side of the synapse, the neurotransmitter binds with a _____ molecule on the membrane of the _____ neuron. As the neurotransmitter _____ to the receptor it _____ a new nerve impulse in the postsynaptic neurone.
- Finally, the chemical messenger is _____ back into the presynaptic neuron, ready to be used again. As levels of the neurotransmitter in the synapse _____ stimulation of the postsynaptic nerve ends.

Label the diagram below

