

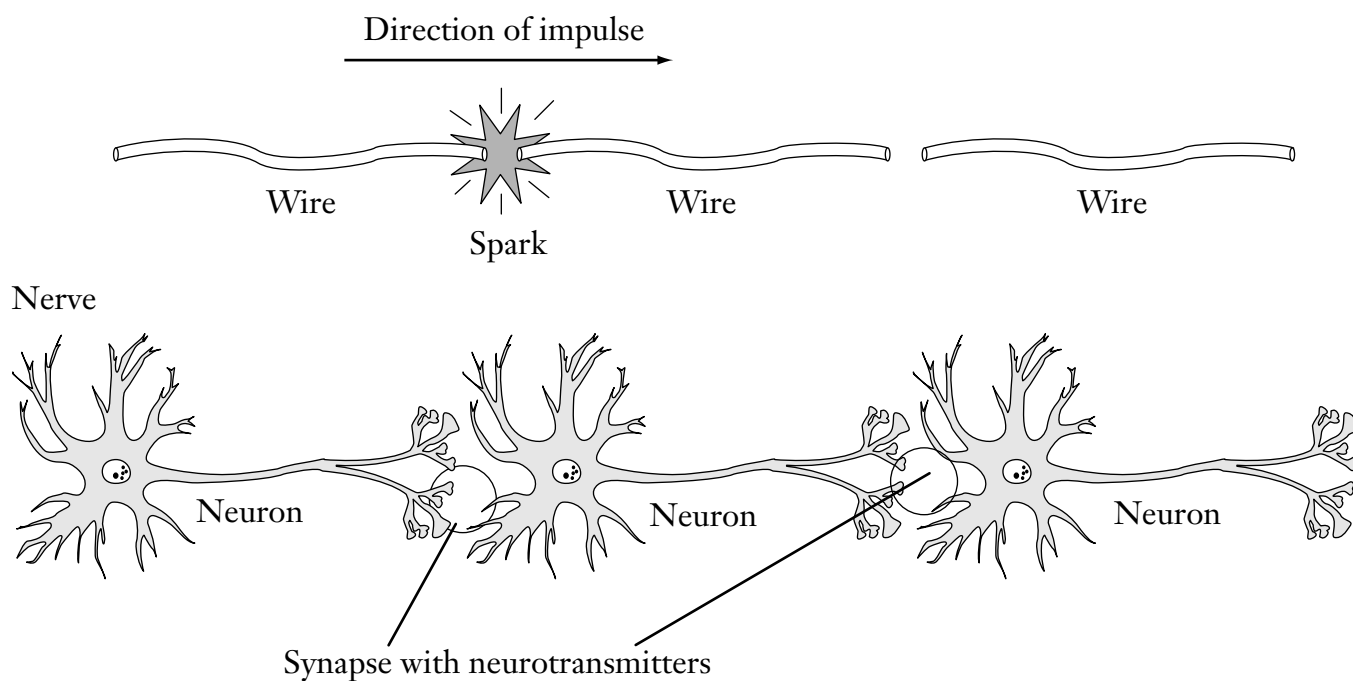
CHAPTER 40 THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS

Section 40.1 The Nervous System

Study the Diagram

Read the paragraph in the box and study the diagram. Then answer the questions.

The **nervous system** is like a very complicated computer. As in a computer, electrical signals travel throughout the system. Instead of the wires you would see in a computer, the nervous system is made up of nerve cells, or **neurons**. The neurons have gaps between them, called **synapses**, which an electrical signal has to jump across in order to continue. Instead of jumping across the gap as a spark, the impulse is passed across the gap by a chemical signal called a **neurotransmitter**.



1. What would happen to your nervous system if the neurotransmitters in your body were suddenly blocked? _____

2. What do you think would happen if a lot of neurotransmitters were suddenly placed throughout all of your nervous system? _____
