KEY CONCEPT

The nervous system is composed of highly specialized cells.



Neurons are highly specialized cells.

- A neuron has three parts.
 - cell body has nucleus and organelles



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 - cell body has nucleus and organelles
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 - axon carries impulses



- Neurons have other structures to transmit signals.
 - Schwann cell



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 - synapse synapse

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 - Schwann cell
 - synapse
 - terminal



Neurons receive and transmit signals.

- Resting potential means no signal is being transmitted.
 - more Na⁺ outside of cell
 - more K⁺ inside of cell

- An action potential is a moving electrical impulse.
 - It is generated by a stimulus.
 - Na⁺ enters, and cell becomes positively charged.
 - K⁺ leaves, and area of positive charge moves.



ACTION POTENTIAL

- Na⁺ channels in the second neuron open quickly. Na⁺ rushes into the cell.
- A new impulse is generated.



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 - Impulse reaches terminal.



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- A chemical signal passes between neurons.
 - Impulse reaches terminal.
 - Neurotransmitters released into synapse.
 - Neurotransmitters stimulate next cell.



