

Neuroanatomical, Neurophysiological and Neuropsychological Terminology

This table lists the original Greek and Latin meanings of neuroscience words. Many of the words are neuroanatomical terms, but neurological symptoms and disorders are also included.

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
abducens.....	drawing away
ablation.....	carrying away
acetylcholine.....	vinegar bile
adrenalin.....	near the kidney
afferent.....	to carry
alar.....	wing-like
alveus.....	canal
amacrine.....	long fiber
ambidextrous.....	both right
ambiguus.....	doubtful
amblyopia.....	dull vision
amnesia.....	forgetfulness
ampulla.....	small bottle
amygdala.....	almond
aphasia.....	no speech
aqueduct.....	water canal
analgesia.....	no pain
aneurysm.....	widening
anesthesia.....	no sensation
ansa.....	urn handle
antitoxin.....	against poison
aphagia.....	no eat
aphasia.....	no speech
aqueduct.....	water canal
arachnoid.....	spider web-like
arbor vitae.....	tree of life
arcuate n.....	bow shaped
astrocyte.....	star-like cell
ataxia.....	not orderly
aura.....	breath, breeze
auricle.....	a little ear
autonomic.....	self law
axon.....	axis, axle
basilar.....	base

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
bouton.....	button
brachium.....	arm
bregma.....	front of the head
calcarine.....	spur-shaped
callosum.....	hard, tough
cannula.....	reed
carotid.....	to put to sleep
cataplexy.....	down stroke, seizure
catatonia.....	down tone
cauda.....	tail
cauda equina.....	horse tail
caudate.....	tail
causalgia.....	burning pain
cenereum.....	ash gray
cephalic.....	head
cerebellum.....	little brain
cerebrum.....	brain
ceruleus.....	blue
cerumen.....	wax
cervical.....	neck
chiasm.....	a crossing
chorea.....	to dance
choroid.....	like a membrane
cingulum.....	girdle or belt
circadian.....	about a day
cistern.....	reservoir or well
claustrum.....	barrier
coccyx.....	cuckoo
cochlea.....	snail shell
colliculus.....	little hill
conus.....	cone or peg
coma.....	deep sleep
commissure.....	joining together

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
convulsion.....	pulling together
corona.....	crown
corpus.....	body
cortex.....	bark, shell
cribiform.....	sieve-like
cruciate.....	cross-shaped
culmen.....	ridge, summit
cuneate.....	wedge
cupula.....	little tub
decussation.....	crossing
dendrite.....	tree
dentate.....	notched
dura.....	hard
dyskinesia.....	improper motion
edema.....	swelling
efferent.....	carry out (away)
emboliform.....	plug-like
encephalitis.....	brain inflammation
encephalogram.....	brain writing
epilepsy.....	seizure
ethmoid.....	sieve-like
falx.....	sickle
fasciculus.....	little bundle
filum.....	thread
fimbria.....	fringe
fissure.....	cleft or slit
flocculus.....	tuft of wool
folium.....	leaf
foramen.....	opening
fornix.....	arch
fossa.....	trench, channel
fovea.....	pit, depression
fundus.....	bottom
funiculus.....	little cord
fusiform.....	spindle-shaped
ganglion.....	knot, swelling
genu.....	knee
geniculate.....	bent like a knee
glabrous.....	bald
gland.....	acorn

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
glia.....	glue
globus pallidus.....	pale ball
gracile.....	slender
gyrus.....	ring, circle
habenula.....	rein
hallucination.....	to wander in the mind
hippocampus.....	sea horse
hypnosis.....	sleep
hypoglossal.....	under the tongue
hypophysis.....	down growth
hypothalamus.....	under thalamus
incus.....	anvil
infundibulum.....	funnel
insula.....	island
iris.....	rainbow
lamina.....	layer, thin plate
lemniscus.....	woolen band or filet
lens.....	lentil
lenticular.....	shaped like a lens
limbic.....	border, hem, fringe
lingula.....	little tongue
lumbar.....	pertaining to the loins
macula.....	spot
malleus.....	hammer
mater (dura).....	mother
medulla.....	innermost, marrow
melanin.....	black
meninges.....	membrane
meningitis.....	membrane inflammation
microglia.....	small glue
myelin.....	marrow
myopia.....	to shut eye
narcolepsy.....	numbness seizure
narcotic.....	benumbing, deadening
neuron.....	nerve
node.....	knot
nucleus.....	nut
obex.....	barrier
oblongata.....	rather long
oculomotor.....	eye movement

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
oligodendrocyte.....	few tree cell
operculus.....	cover, lid
optic.....	for sight
oscilloscope.....	to examine swinging
pallidus.....	pale
paralysis.....	to loosen
paranoia.....	mind beside itself
patella.....	little plate
peduncle.....	stemlike
pellucidum.....	translucent
pia.....	soft
pineal.....	pine cone
piriform.....	pear-shaped
pituitary.....	slime, mucous
placebo.....	to please
plexus.....	a braid
pons.....	bridge
potential.....	power
pterygoid.....	wing-shaped
pulp.....	flesh
pulvinar.....	cushion, pillow, couch
pupil.....	doll, little girl
putamen.....	shell
pyramis.....	pyramid
pyriform.....	pear-shaped
quadrigemina.....	four twins
rabies.....	to rage
ramus.....	branch
raphe.....	seam
rectus.....	straight
restiform.....	rope-like
reticular.....	net-like
rhodopsin.....	rose eye
rostral.....	beak
rubro.....	red
sacral.....	sacred, holy
sagittal.....	arrow
schizophrenia.....	split mind
sclera.....	hard
sella turcica.....	Turkish saddle
semilunar.....	half moon

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
serotonin.....	blood stretching
septum.....	wall, partition
sinus.....	a hollow
soma.....	body
somnambulism.....	sleep walk
somniloquism.....	sleep speak (talk)
spine.....	thorn
splenium.....	bandage
stapes.....	stirrup
stellate.....	star
stimulate.....	to goad
striated.....	striped
substantia nigra.....	black substance
sulcus.....	groove, trench, furrow
synapse.....	connection
tapetum.....	carpet
tectum.....	roof
tegmentum.....	covering
tentorium.....	tent
thalamus.....	inner chamber
thoracic.....	chest
trabecula.....	little beam
tremor.....	to shake
trigeminal.....	three twins
trochlear.....	pulley
tubercle.....	swelling
uncus.....	hook
vagus.....	wandering
ventricle.....	small cavity
vermis.....	worm
vertex.....	top, summit
vesicle.....	blister, bladder
vitreous.....	glassy