

Drug Action

Psychology

How psychoactive drugs act at the synapse, and the vocabulary.

Educational reference on mechanisms.

Action	Does	Example class
Agonist	Mimics the transmitter	Opioids at opioid receptors
Antagonist	Blocks the receptor	Antipsychotics at D2
Reuptake inhibitor	Leaves transmitter in the cleft	SSRIs
Enzyme inhibitor	Prevents breakdown	MAOIs
Releasing agent	Forces release	Amphetamines

Educational reference. Tolerance often reflects receptor downregulation; withdrawal is the adapted system without the drug.