

THE MANGA GUIDE™ TO

COMICS  
INSIDE!

# PHYSIOLOGY

ETSURO TANAKA  
KEIKO KOYAMA  
BECOM CO., LTD.



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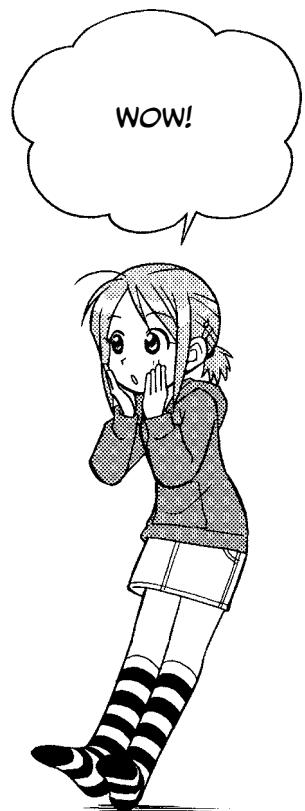
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—GOOD MATH, BAD MATH ON *THE MANGA GUIDE TO STATISTICS*

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—GEEKDAD

"If you want to introduce a subject that kids wouldn't normally be very interested in, give it an amusing storyline and wrap it in cartoons."

—MAKE ON *THE MANGA GUIDE TO STATISTICS*

"A clever blend that makes relativity easier to think about—even if you're no Einstein."

—STARDATE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, ON *THE MANGA GUIDE TO RELATIVITY*

"This book does exactly what it is supposed to: offer a fun, interesting way to learn calculus concepts that would otherwise be extremely bland to memorize."

—DAILY TECH ON *THE MANGA GUIDE TO CALCULUS*

"Scientifically solid . . . entertainingly bizarre."

—CHAD ORZEL, SCIENCEBLOGS, ON *THE MANGA GUIDE TO RELATIVITY*

"Makes it possible for a 10-year-old to develop a decent working knowledge of a subject that sends most college students running for the hills."

—SKEPTICBLOG ON *THE MANGA GUIDE TO MOLECULAR BIOLOGY*

"*The Manga Guide to the Universe* does an excellent job of addressing some of the biggest science questions out there, exploring both the history of cosmology and the main riddles that still challenge physicists today."

—ABOUT.COM

"*The Manga Guide to Calculus* is an entertaining comic with colorful characters and a fun strategy to teach its readers calculus."

—DR. DOBB'S

THE MANGA GUIDE™ TO PHYSIOLOGY



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ETSURO TANAKA,  
KEIKO KOYAMA, AND  
BECOM CO., LTD.



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# CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	xi
---------------	----

## PROLOGUE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I HAVE TO TAKE PHYSIOLOGY 101? .....	1
---	---

1

## THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

The Electrical Conduction System of the Heart .....	8
Heart Movements and Waveforms .....	18
<i>Even More About the Circulatory System!</i> .....	22
Electrical Activity in the Heart .....	22
How an Electrocardiogram Works .....	23
How the Nervous System Affects the Circulatory System .....	24
The Coronary Arteries .....	25
Blood Circulation .....	26
Blood Pressure .....	29
Measuring Blood Pressure .....	30
The Lymphatic System .....	31

2

## THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Respiration's Job .....	33
How Ventilation Works .....	37
Controlling Respiration .....	42
<i>Even More About the Respiratory System!</i> .....	46
External and Internal Respiration .....	46
Partial Pressures of Gases in the Blood .....	48
Acidosis and Alkalosis .....	50
How the Lungs Work .....	52

3

## THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The Alimentary Canal .....	56
The Esophagus and the Stomach .....	59
The Duodenum and the Pancreas .....	61
The Small and Large Intestines .....	62
The Three Major Nutrients .....	65
<i>Even More About the Digestive System!</i> .....	72
The Digestive System in Action .....	72
ATP and the Citric Acid Cycle .....	74
Digestive Fluids and Digestive Enzymes .....	76
The Liver's Role in Metabolism and Digestion .....	78

**4**

<b>THE KIDNEYS AND THE RENAL SYSTEM .....</b>	81
Filtering the Blood .....	83
Reabsorbing Water and Nutrients .....	87
Disposing of Urine .....	90
<i>Even More About the Kidneys!</i> .....	92
Urine and Homeostasis in the Body .....	92
The Process of Urination .....	93
Monitoring Blood in the Kidneys.....	95
When the Kidneys Stop Working .....	97
<b>5</b>	
<b>BODY FLUIDS .....</b>	99
Humans Are 60 Percent Water.....	101
Osmotic Pressure .....	106
<i>Even More about Body Fluids and the Blood!</i> .....	110
Keeping Hydrated .....	110
What's in Blood?.....	111
<b>6</b>	
<b>THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM .....</b>	119
Neurons .....	121
The Nervous System .....	123
<i>Even More About the Nervous System!</i> .....	130
Parts of the Brain .....	130
Structure of the Brain.....	131
Brain Injuries .....	133
The Spinal Cord .....	134
Pathways Through the Body.....	135
Cranial and Spinal Nerves .....	137
The Autonomic Nervous System .....	138
<b>7</b>	
<b>THE SENSORY NERVOUS SYSTEM.....</b>	143
Types of Sensations .....	147
Thresholds and Sensory Adaption .....	152
<i>Even More About the Sensory Nervous System!</i> .....	156
Sight and the Eye .....	156
Hearing and the Ear .....	159
Balance and the Inner Ear .....	161
Smell and the Nose .....	162
Taste and the Tongue .....	164

<b>8</b>	
<b>THE MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM</b>	167
Muscle Fibers	168
Joints	173
<i>Even More About Muscles and Bones!</i>	178
Regulating Body Temperature	178
Bones and Bone Metabolism	180
<b>9</b>	
<b>CELLS, GENES, AND REPRODUCTION</b>	185
Basic Structure of the Cell	187
Genes and DNA	191
<i>Even More About Cells, Genes, and Reproduction!</i>	196
Cell Division	196
Sexual Reproduction	198
<b>10</b>	
<b>THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM</b>	203
What Is the Endocrine System?	204
Balancing Hormone Levels	207
<i>Even More About the Endocrine System!</i>	212
The Hypothalamus and Pituitary Gland	212
The Thyroid and Parathyroid	213
The Adrenal Glands	215
The Pancreas	217
Sex Hormones	219
<b>EPILOGUE</b>	223
<b>AFTERWORD</b>	
<b>CREATING THIS BOOK</b>	227
<b>INDEX</b>	229



# PREFACE

If you're reading this book, you may well be a student in a medical-related field, so you know how daunting the human body can be as a study subject. But once you learn a little more about it, you'll see that the human body actually has a very logical organization and that it's not as hard to learn about as you think. It always amazes me how cleverly the human body is organized.

Unfortunately, many people are reluctant to learn physiology because it seems like there is so much to cover, with so many different areas of study, that starting the subject can be intimidating. This is a shame, because once you know the basics of how the body works, it really is a fascinating subject. This book attempts to convey the magnificence of the human body in an enjoyable and easy-to-understand manner.

*The Manga Guide to Physiology* uses the story of Kumiko, who has previously struggled with her physiology class, to make understanding physiology fun. By getting a first-hand feel for physiology through her own physical experiences, like eating and running, Kumiko quickly develops a personal interest and begins to enjoy learning, and hopefully you will too.

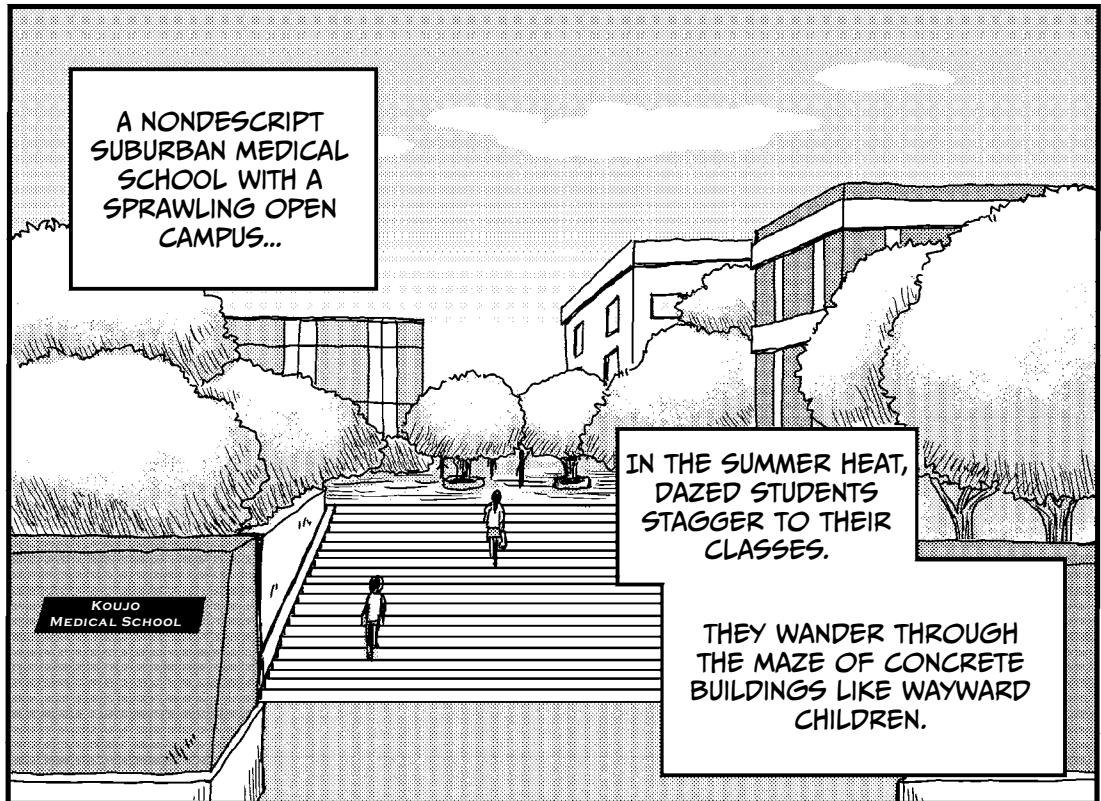
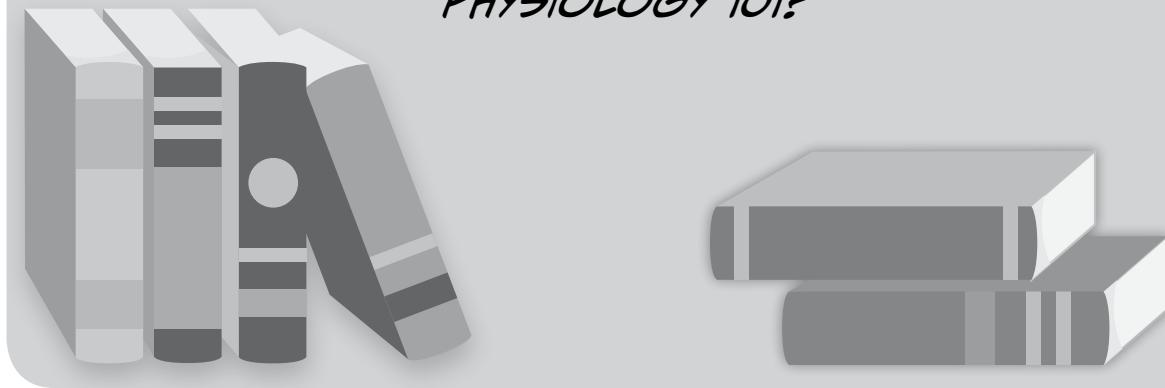
If you've never studied physiology before or have found it difficult to grasp, reading through the comic sections first will give you a decent overview. Reading through both the comic and the text sections together will give you a more detailed understanding.

If this book helps you understand physiology, it will give me great pleasure as its editor.

**ETSURO TANAKA  
NOVEMBER 2011**

# PROLOGUE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN  
I HAVE TO TAKE  
PHYSIOLOGY 101?



NEXT WEEK'S STUDENT COUNCIL-SUPPORTED MARATHON WILL WIND ITS WAY THROUGH THE VAST CAMPUS.

KOUJO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Student Council-Sponsored

MARATHON

IT'S A FAMOUS EVENT IN THE SMALL UNIVERSITY TOWN AND CAUSE FOR MUCH CELEBRATION.

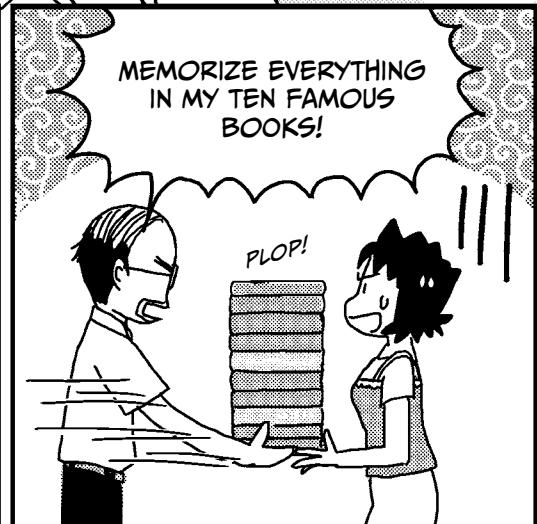
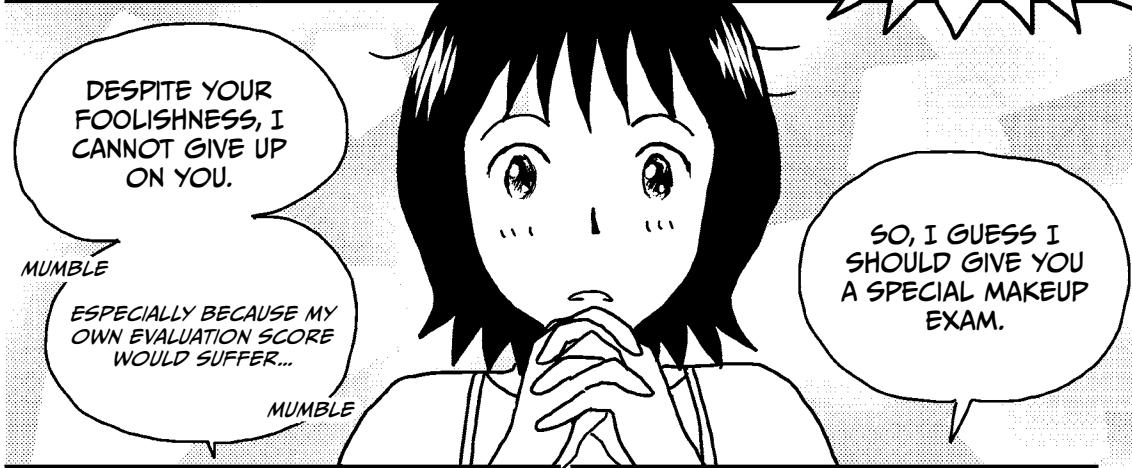
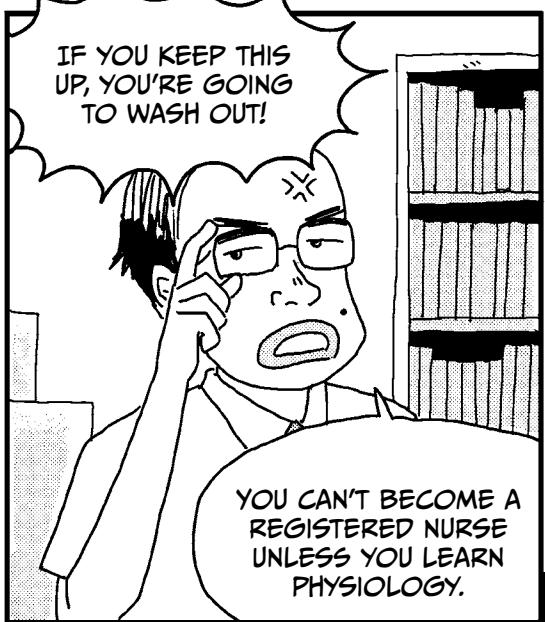
MS. KARADA,

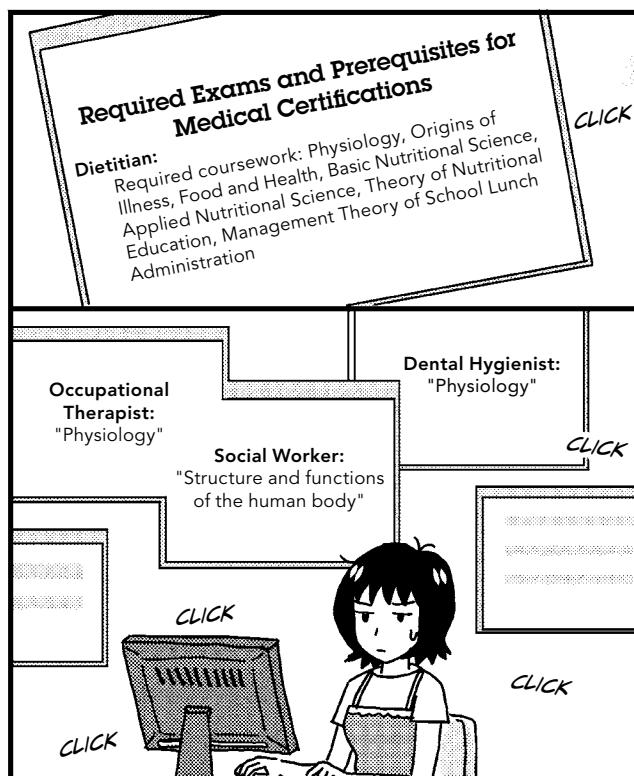
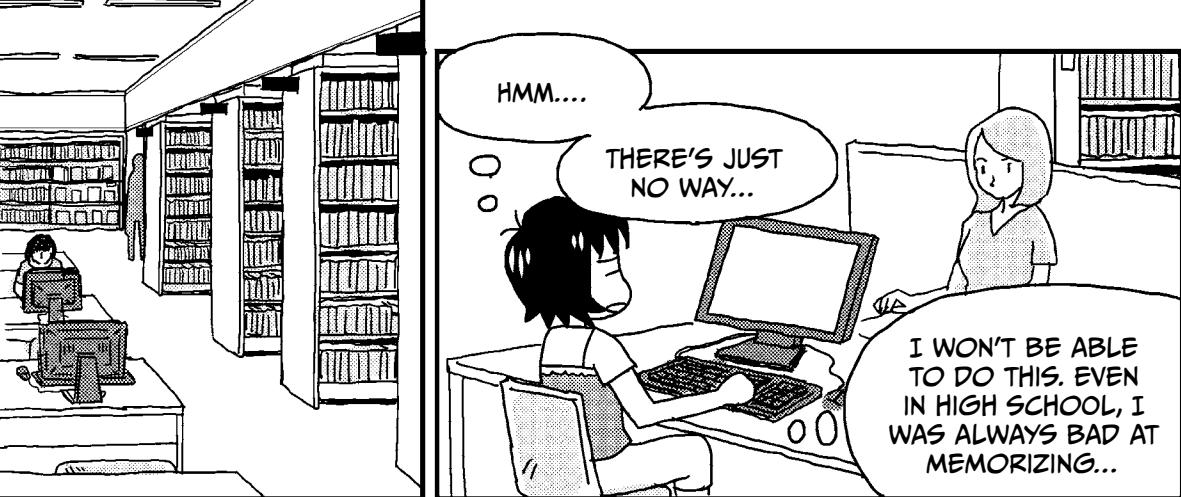
YOUR DEDICATION TO TRAINING FOR OUR SUMMER MARATHON IS ADMIRABLE, BUT CLEARLY YOU HAVE LET IT INTERFERE WITH YOUR STUDIES!

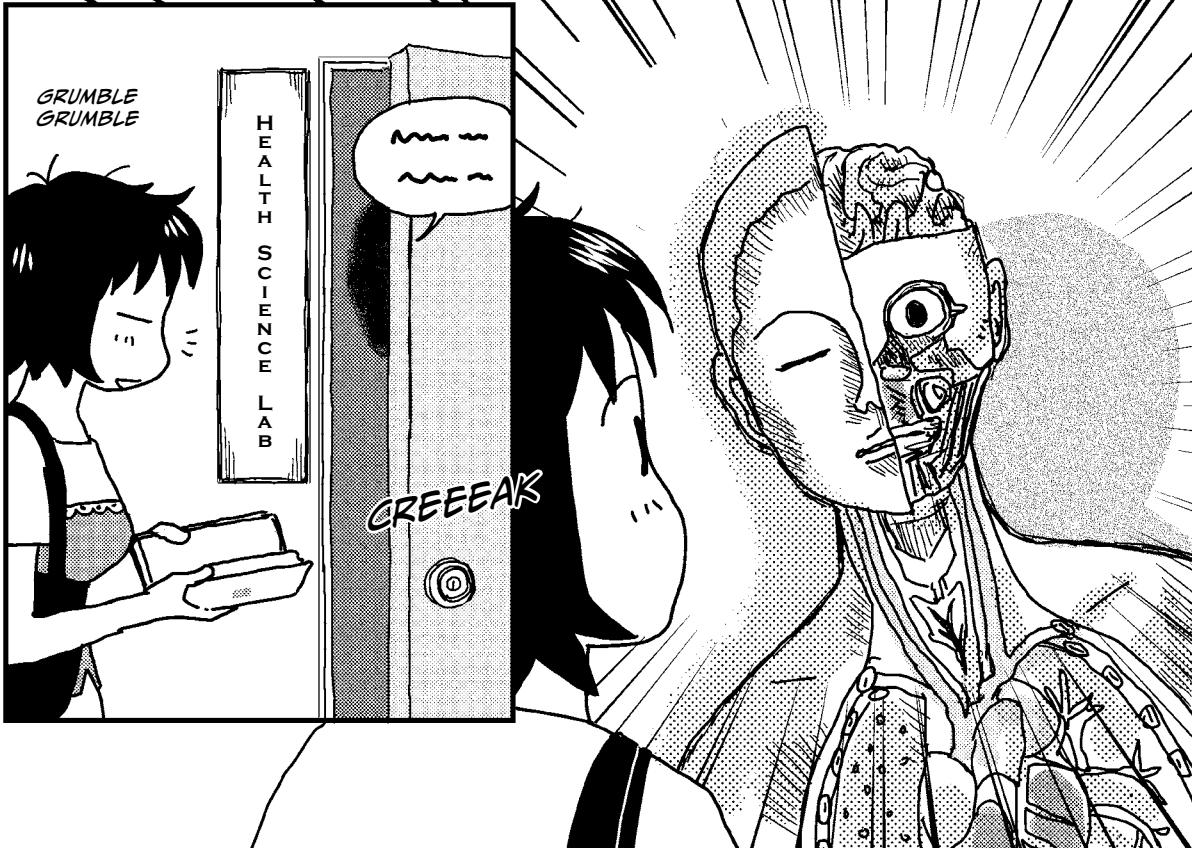
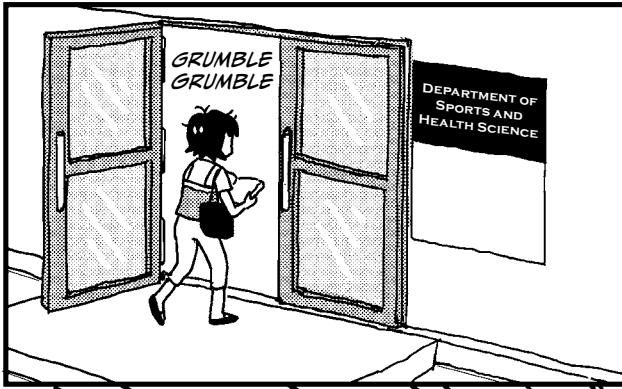
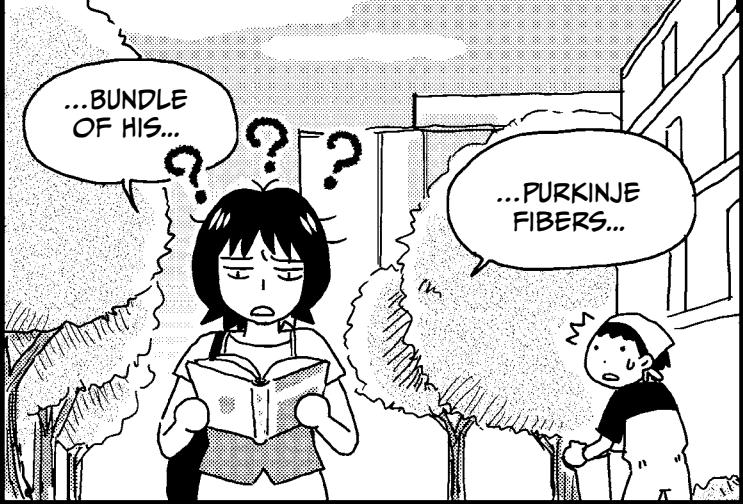
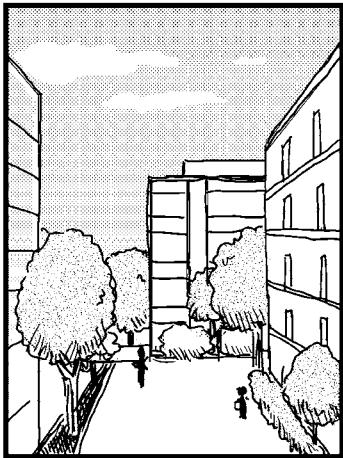
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN MY CLASS WHO FAILED!

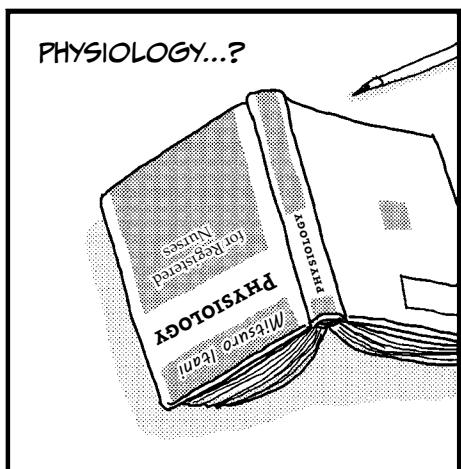
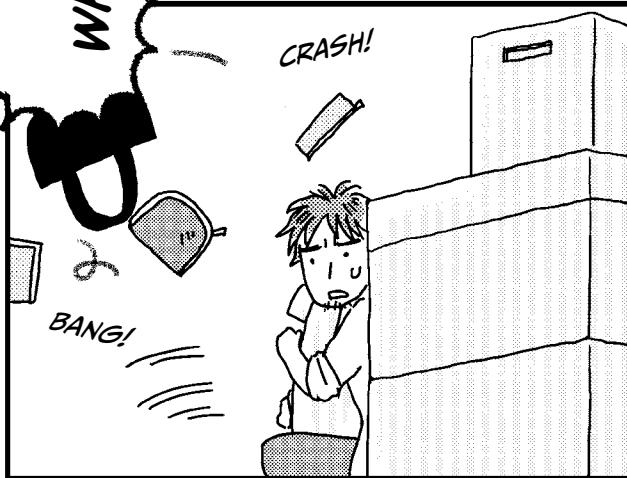
PHYSIOLOGY LECTURER  
MITSURO ITANI  
SCHOOL OF NURSING,  
KOUJO MEDICAL SCHOOL

FRESHMAN  
NURSING STUDENT  
KUMIKO KARADA









# 1

# THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

PUMPS WORKING IN HARMONY



I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE  
FOR THAT!

## THE ELECTRICAL CONDUCTION SYSTEM OF THE HEART

I'M EMBARRASSED  
TO ADMIT IT, BUT  
I'M NOW STUDYING  
HARD FOR A MAKEUP  
EXAM AND...

WHILE TOTALLY  
ABSORBED IN THAT,  
I SOMEHOW ENDED  
UP HERE...

YOUR POWER OF  
CONCENTRATION IS  
VERY IMPRESSIVE!

WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?

OH,  
EXCUSE ME!

I'M KUMIKO  
KARADA, A  
FRESHMAN IN  
THE SCHOOL OF  
NURSING!

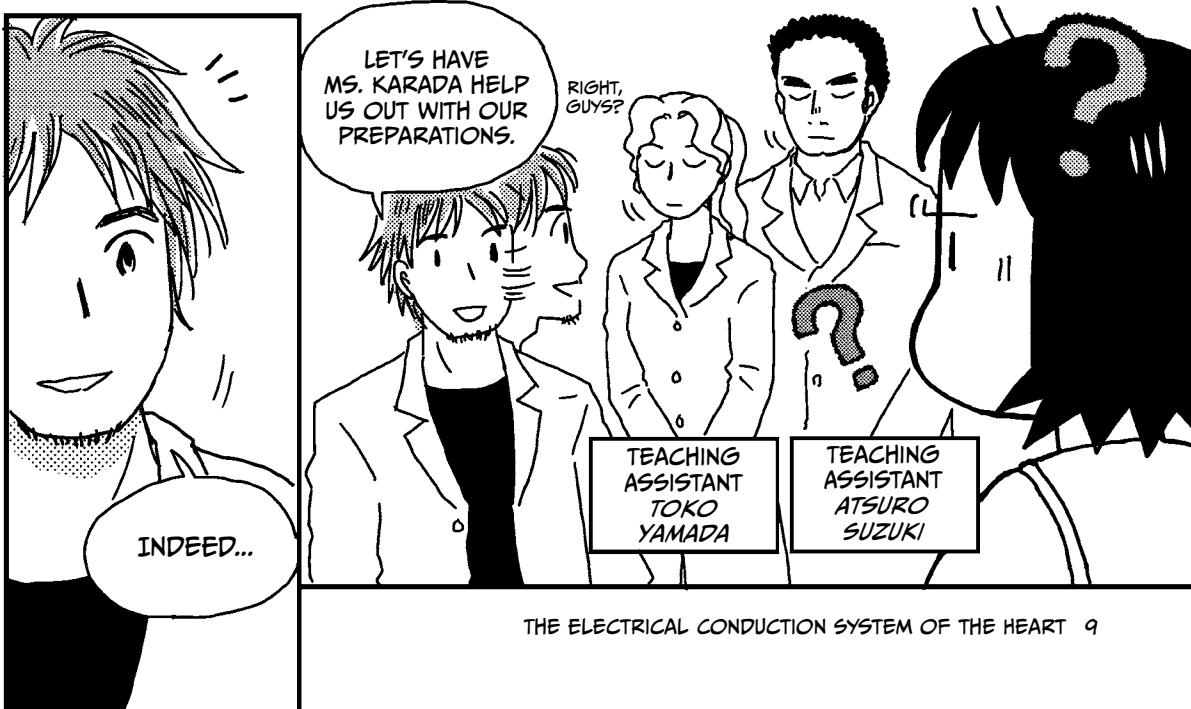
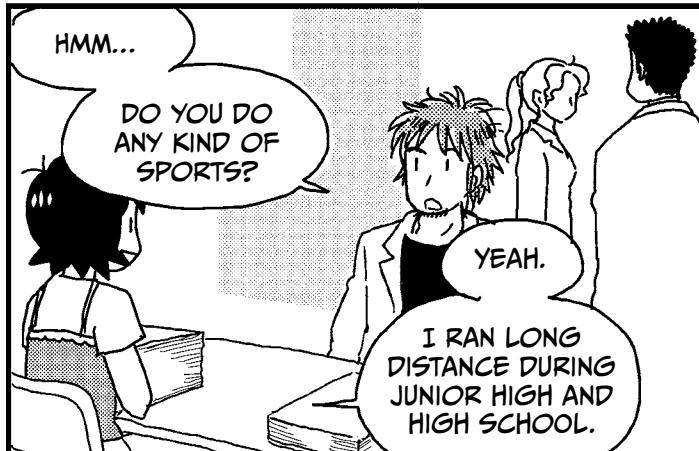
MS. KARADA,  
IS IT?

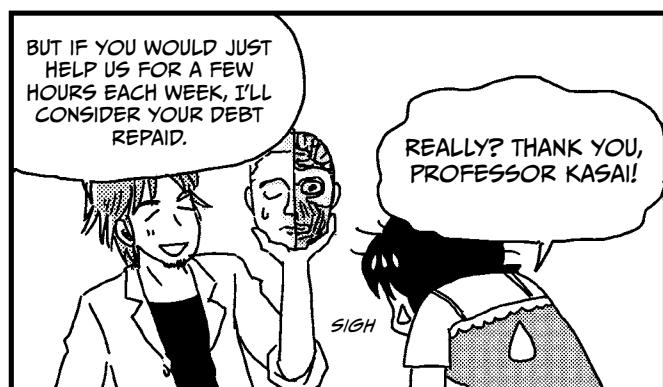
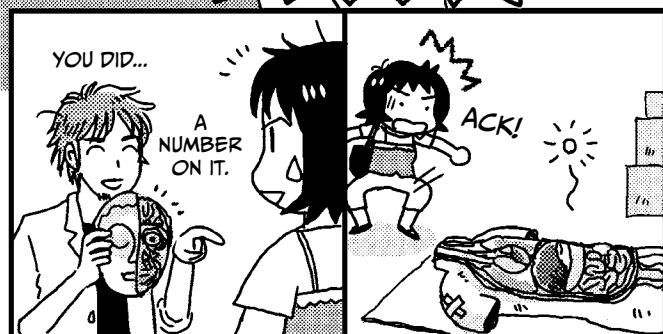
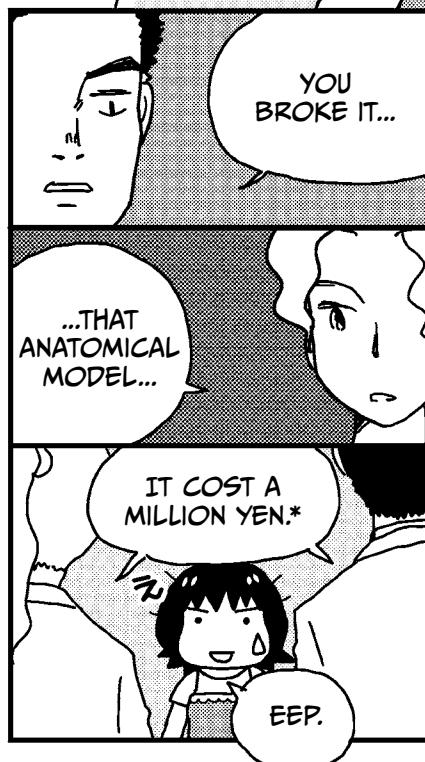
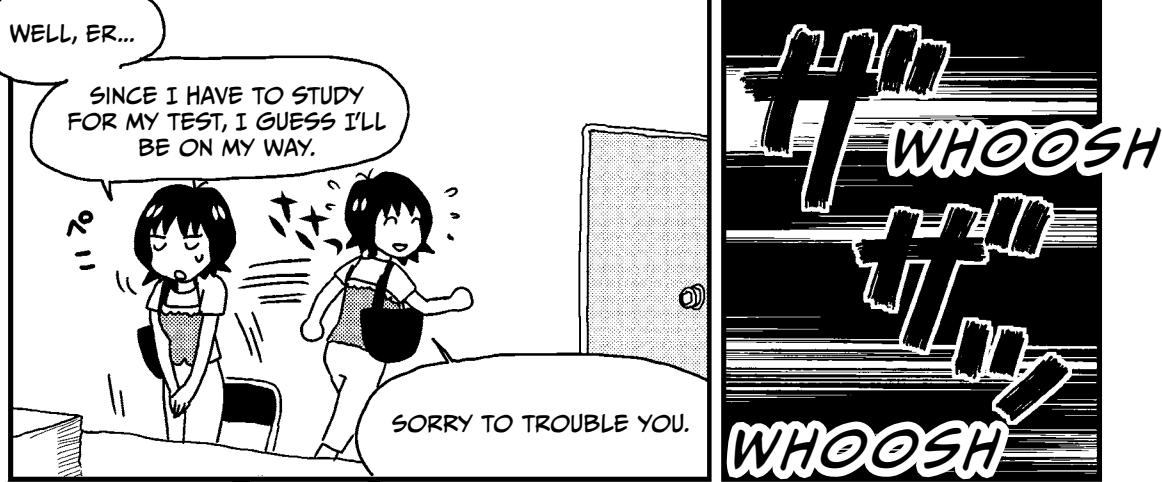
NICE TO MEET  
YOU. MY NAME  
IS KAISEI.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OSAMU KAISEI,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SPORTS AND HEALTH  
SCIENCE

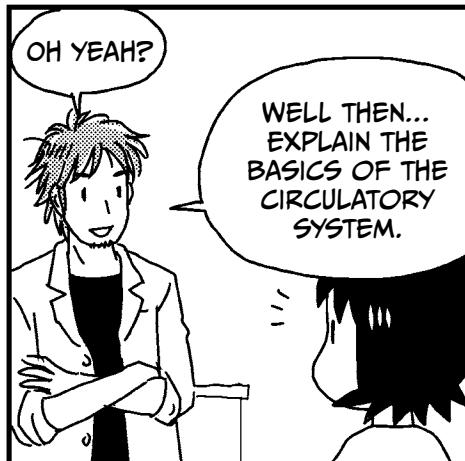
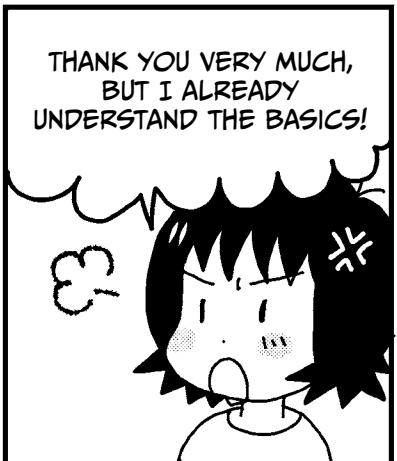
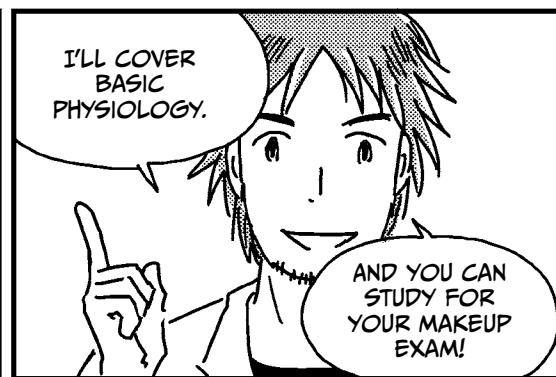
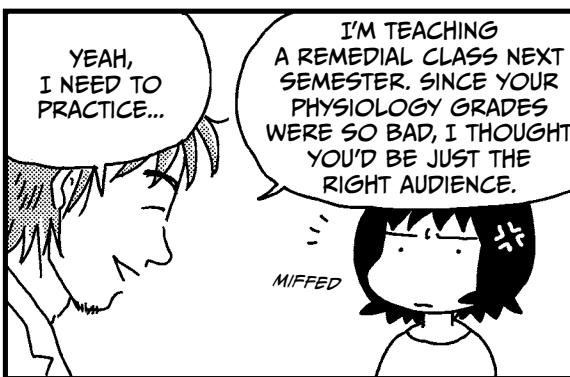
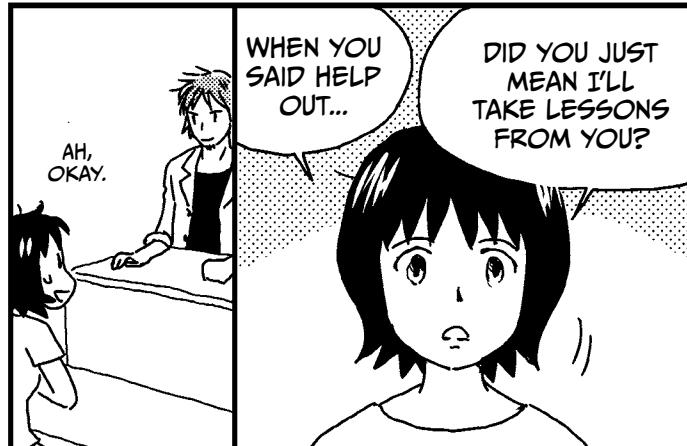
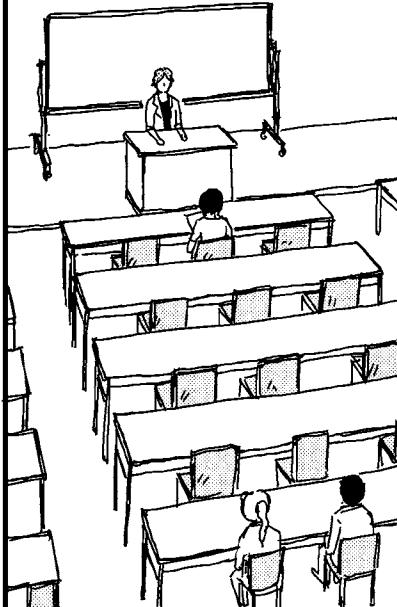
YOU'RE  
PREPARING  
DURING SUMMER  
SESSION?

I'M TEACHING A  
NEW CLASS THIS  
YEAR. I HAVE TO  
GET READY!





THE NEXT MORNING



THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM INCLUDES ORGANS THAT CIRCULATE THE BLOOD WITHIN THE BODY. THE ELECTRICAL CONDUCTION SYSTEM THAT STARTS THE CONTRACTION OF THE HEART TRANSMITS AN ELECTRICAL IMPULSE, WHICH IS A CONTRACTION OF THE SINOATRIAL MYOCARDIUM VENTRICLE. NODE, VENTRICULAR

INSTRUCTION, FROM NODE TO THE CELLS OF THE SINOATRIAL THE ATRIO-NODE...UM, ER...



STOP!

STOP FOR A MOMENT.  
DO YOU UNDERSTAND  
WHAT'S COMING OUT  
OF YOUR MOUTH?



PANT PANT  
? ?  
BUT HE SAID THAT  
PHYSIOLOGY IS  
MEMORIZATION.

PROFESSOR ITANI  
SAID THAT?

NOD  
NOD



AHEM

THE CIRCULATORY  
SYSTEM INCLUDES  
THE HEART AND  
BLOOD VESSELS.

THE HEART IS A  
POWERFUL PUMP  
THAT SENDS  
BLOOD TO YOUR  
BODY THROUGH A  
NETWORK OF BLOOD  
VESSELS THAT ACT  
SOMETHING LIKE  
PIPES.

CIRCULATORY  
SYSTEM

YOU'RE REALLY  
GOING BACK  
TO BASICS,  
AREN'T YOU?



SURE!  
THE BLOOD'S JOB  
IS TO TRANSPORT  
OXYGEN AND  
NUTRIENTS...

AND IF THE BLOOD  
STOPS FLOWING, THE  
PERSON WILL DIE.

OUR HEART KEEPS  
THE BLOOD FLOWING,  
WHICH IS WHY IT'S  
SO VITAL TO KEEPING  
YOU ALIVE.

MAN, I STUDIED  
THE CIRCULATORY  
ORGANS A LOOONG  
TIME AGO.

SO...

THERE ARE  
TWO CIRCUITS  
OF BLOOD. ONE  
CIRCULATES  
THROUGH THE  
LUNGS AND  
THE OTHER  
THROUGH THE  
ENTIRE BODY.



THEY'RE CALLED  
PULMONARY  
CIRCULATION  
AND SYSTEMIC  
CIRCULATION,  
RIGHT?

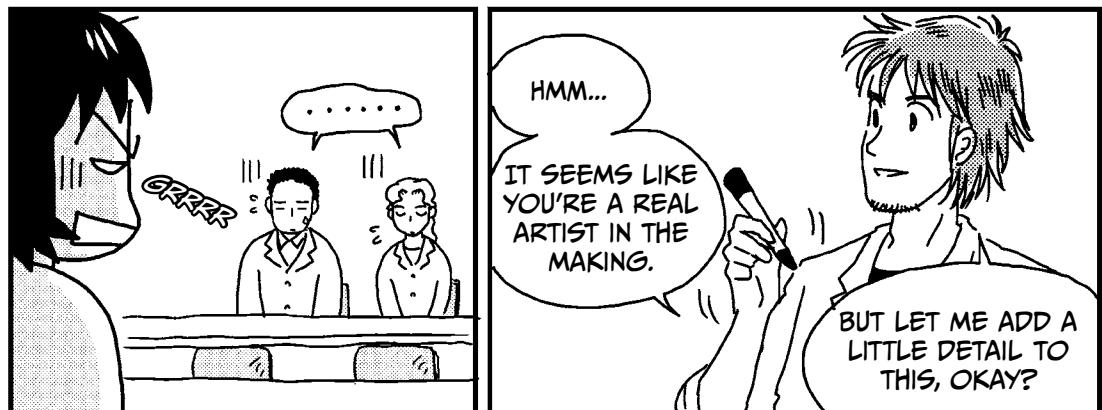
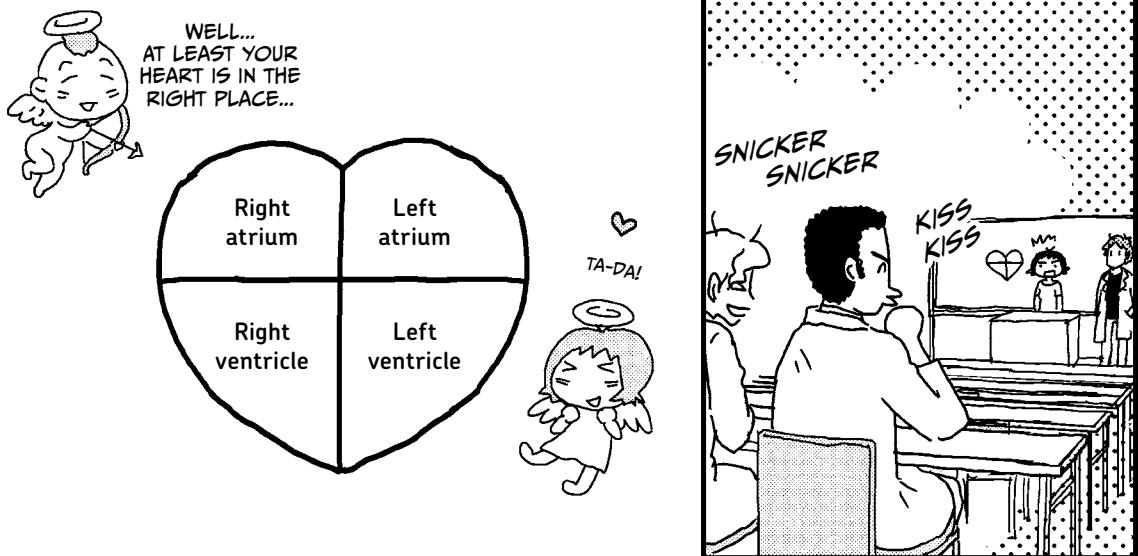
YES, THAT'S  
CORRECT.

LET'S THINK ABOUT THAT  
SOME MORE. THE HEART IS  
DIVIDED INTO TWO CIRCUITS,  
THE LEFT HEART AND THE  
RIGHT HEART.

WELL,  
WELL...

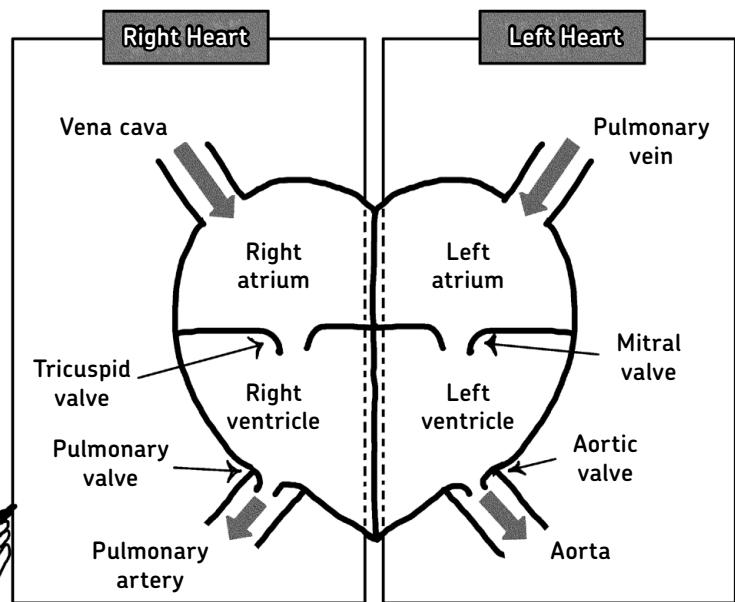
THE LEFT HEART CONTAINS  
THE LEFT ATRIUM AND  
LEFT VENTRICLE, AND THE  
RIGHT HEART CONTAINS THE  
RIGHT ATRIUM AND RIGHT  
VENTRICLE FOR A TOTAL OF  
FOUR CHAMBERS.

SHE KNOWS  
THAT MUCH  
PERFECTLY.



OKAY. ARTERIES AND VEINS ARE CONNECTED LIKE THIS TO THE HEART, WHICH HAS FOUR CHAMBERS AND FOUR VALVES.

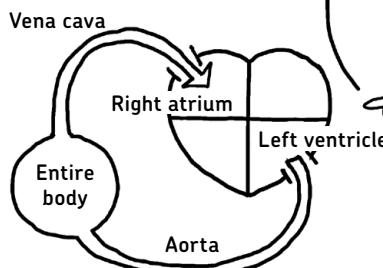
THE LEFT AND RIGHT SIDES ARE ROUGHLY DIVIDED INTO THE LEFT HEART AND RIGHT HEART.



BY THE WAY, THE LEFT HEART IS THE SIDE THAT PUMPS BLOOD TO THE ENTIRE BODY.



#### Systemic Circulation



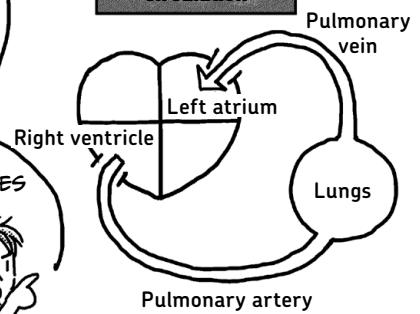
SYSTEMIC CIRCULATION CIRCULATES THE BLOOD FROM THE LEFT VENTRICLE THROUGH THE ENTIRE BODY TO THE RIGHT ATRIUM.



PULMONARY CIRCULATION CIRCULATES IT FROM THE RIGHT VENTRICLE THROUGH THE LUNGS TO THE LEFT ATRIUM.



#### Pulmonary Circulation



THE LEFT HEART AND RIGHT HEART ARE "PUMPS," AND SYSTEMIC CIRCULATION AND PULMONARY CIRCULATION SEND BLOOD THROUGH A SERIES OF "PIPES," RIGHT?

MAYBE IT'S NOT SO BASIC, AFTER ALL.

WELL, LET'S MOVE ON.

YOU KNOW THAT THE HEART CONTRACTS AND EXPANDS WITH A WELL-REGULATED RHYTHM WHEN THE MUSCLE CALLED THE MYOCARDIUM RECEIVES ELECTRICAL STIMULI.

YEAH, ISN'T THIS RHYTHM OF CONTRACTION AND EXPANSION CAUSED BY THE ELECTRICAL IMPULSE CONDUCTION SYSTEM OF THE HEART?



SO...



WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT...?



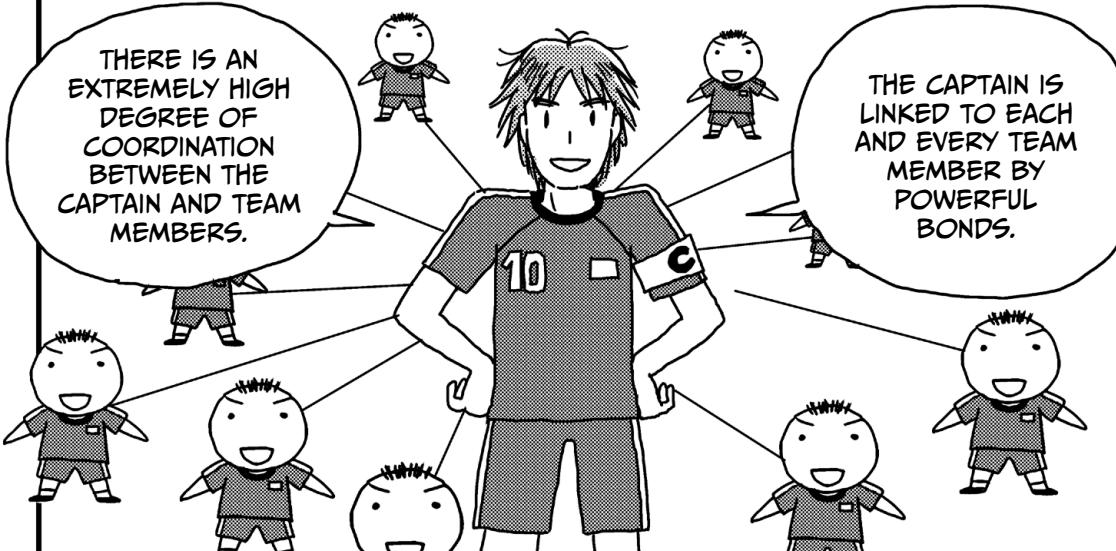
THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ELECTRICAL IMPULSES, WHICH ARE THE SOURCE OF THE RHYTHM OF THE HEART, IS THE COACH.



THE IMPULSES ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE CAPTAIN...

AND THEN ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE PLAYERS.

THERE IS AN EXTREMELY HIGH DEGREE OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CAPTAIN AND TEAM MEMBERS.



ALSO, THE COACH IS LISTENING FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE TEAM OWNER.

Owner



Brain



Sinoatrial node



AY-AY-AY!

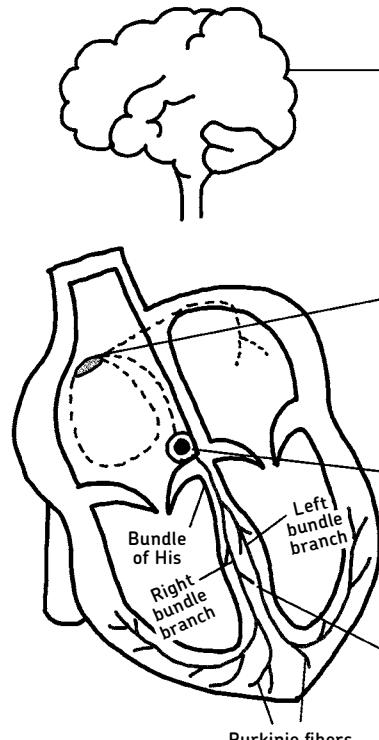
IF WE SHOW THIS IN A DIAGRAM OF THE IMPULSE CONDUCTION SYSTEM...



HUH?



THE OWNER IS THE BRAIN. THE COACH IS THE SINOATRIAL NODE. THE CAPTAIN IS THE ATRIOVENTRICULAR NODE. THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CAPTAIN ARE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE BUNDLE OF HIS, LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH OR RIGHT BUNDLE BRANCH, AND PURKINJE FIBERS. AND THE TEAM MEMBERS ARE THE MYOCARDIUM.



Brain

Sinoatrial Node

Atrio-ventricular Node

Myocardium



GET OUT AND WIN, BOYS!



TODAY'S THE DAY!

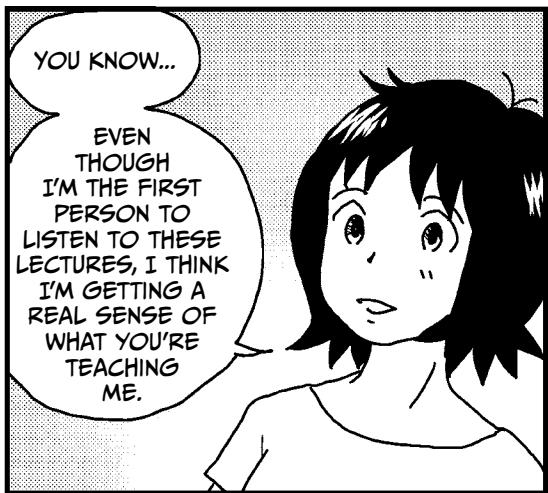
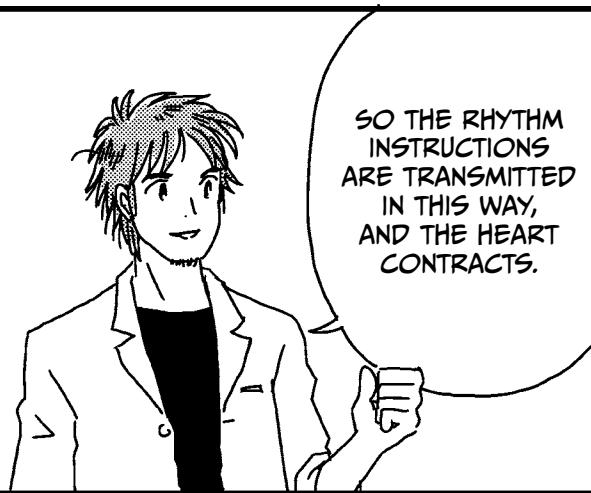


KEEP UP THE PRESSURE!

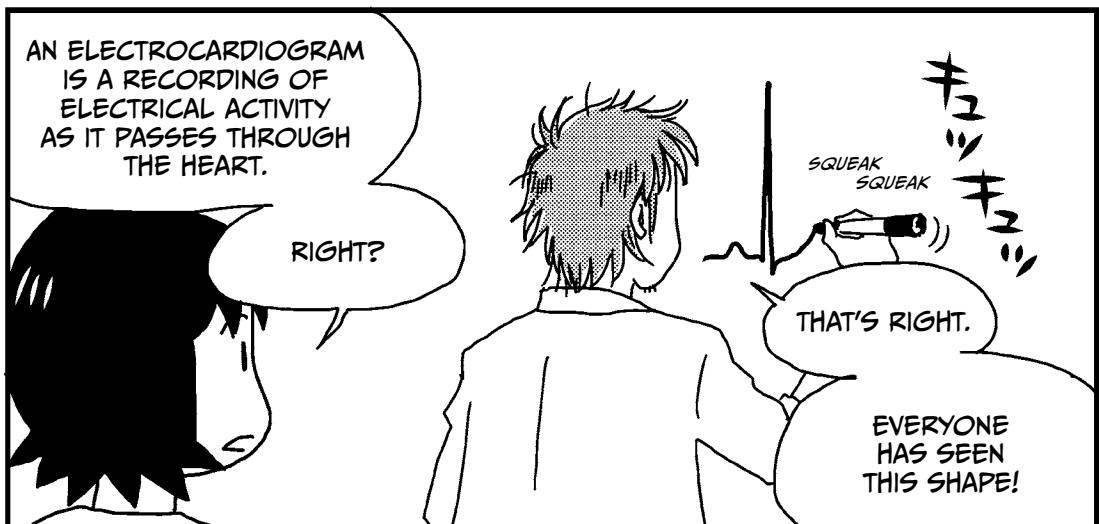
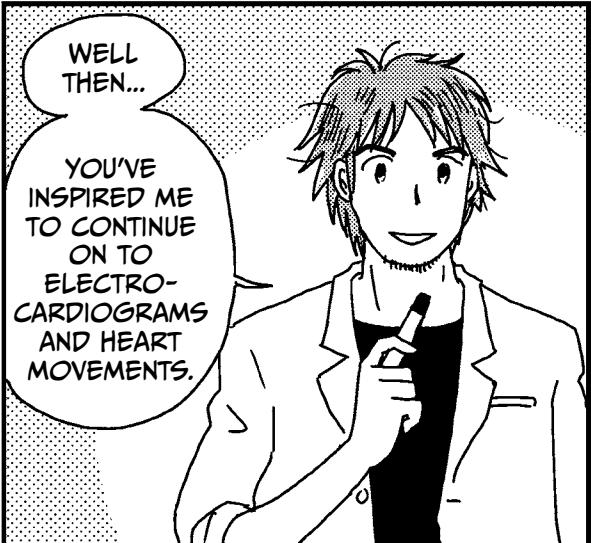


LET'S DO THIS!

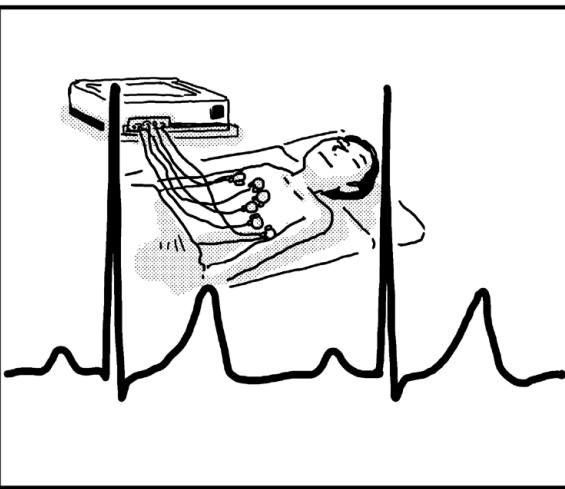
THE BRAIN INITIATES AN ELECTRICAL IMPULSE IN THE SINOATRIAL NODE, WHICH THEN TRANSMITS THE IMPULSE TO THE ATRIOVENTRICULAR NODE, AND THEN FINALLY TO THE MYOCARDIAL CELLS.



## HEART MOVEMENTS AND WAVEFORMS



LET'S CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS WAVE AND THE ELECTRICAL STIMULATION OF THE HEART.



I CERTAINLY REMEMBER MY FIRST ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAM.



FIRST, STIMULI ARE TRANSMITTED FROM THE SINOATRIAL NODE TO THE ATRIUM, CAUSING THE LEFT AND RIGHT ATRIA TO CONTRACT.



Coach

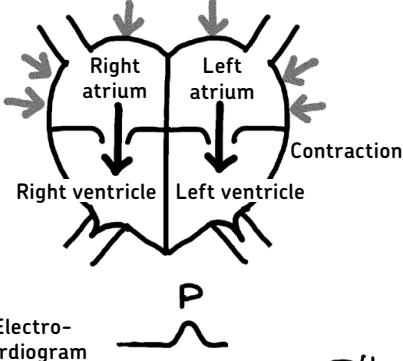


Atrium

THAT MADE THE P WAVE, RIGHT? IT'S THE LITTLEST BUMP.



THAT'S RIGHT. AND THE CONTRACTION OF THE ATRIA SENDS THE BLOOD THAT IS IN THE ATRIA TO THE VENTRICLES.

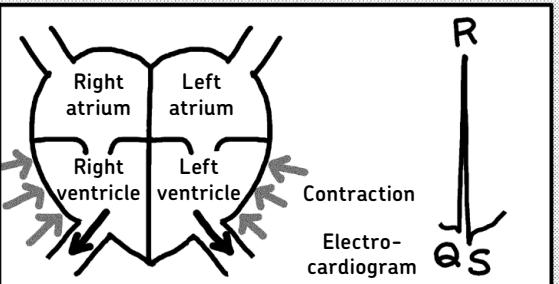


Electro-cardiogram

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE ATRIOVENTRICULAR NODE ARE THEN TRANSMITTED—THROUGH THE BUNDLE OF HIS, LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH, RIGHT BUNDLE BRANCH, AND PURKINJE FIBERS—to the myocardium, stimulating the left and right ventricles.



THIS IS THE QRS COMPLEX.



Electro-cardiogram

THE QRS COMPLEX IS TRANSMITTED TO THE VENTRICLES NEXT, ISN'T IT?



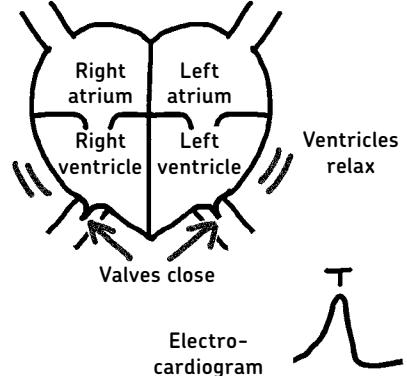
THE VENTRICLES CONTRACT, AND THE BLOOD IS SENT TO THE AORTA AND THE PULMONARY ARTERY.

RIGHT.



AND FINALLY,  
THE T WAVE...

THE STIMULATION  
OF THE VENTRICLES  
ENDS HERE AND THE  
VENTRICLES RELAX.



THAT SHOULD  
GIVE YOU A PRETTY  
GOOD IDEA OF  
WHAT'S GOING ON!

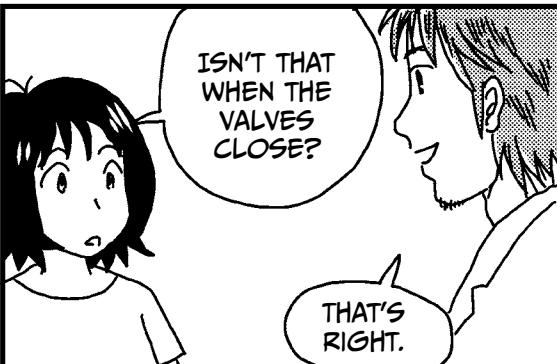
GOT IT!



BY THE WAY,  
DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
WHEN YOU  
HEAR YOUR  
HEARTBEAT?

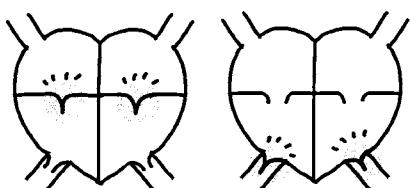


ISN'T THAT  
WHEN THE  
VALVES  
CLOSE?



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

EACH VALVE INSIDE THE HEART  
MAKES A SOUND WHEN IT CLOSES,  
JUST LIKE A CASTANET!

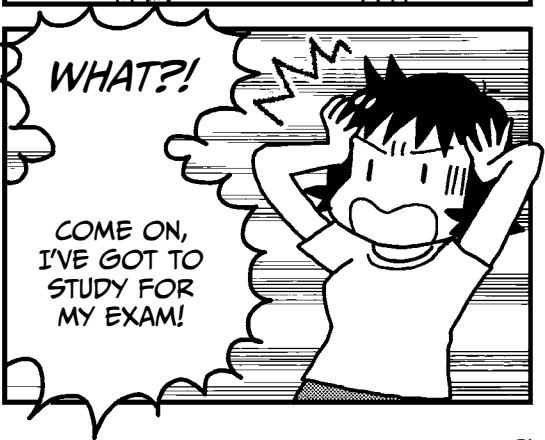
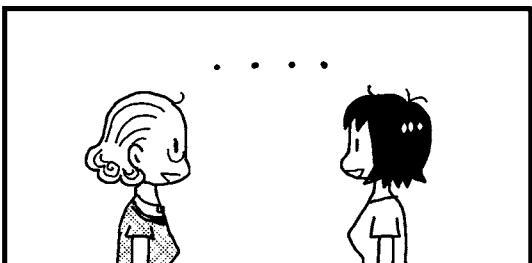
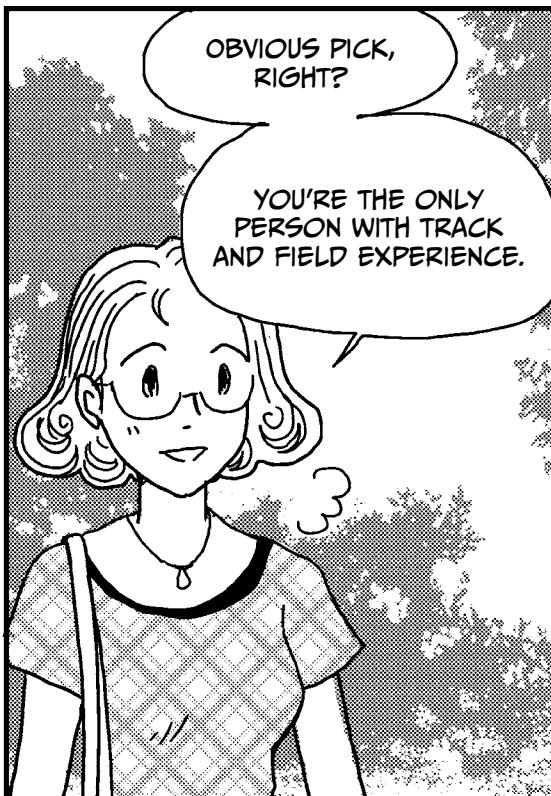
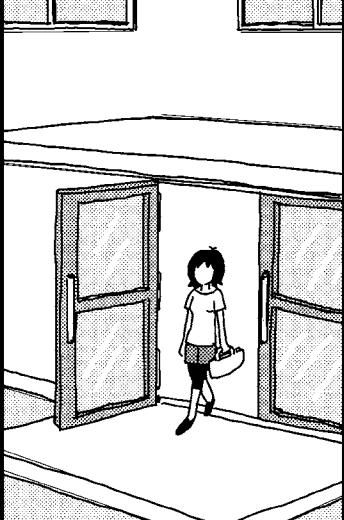


THAT'S ALL  
FOR TODAY.



REMEMBER, IF YOU  
WANT TO HELP  
PATIENTS AND PUT  
YOUR KNOWLEDGE  
OF PHYSIOLOGY TO  
USE, IT WILL TAKE  
MORE THAN JUST  
MEMORIZATION. YOU  
ALSO HAVE TO SEE  
THE BIGGER PICTURE  
AND UNDERSTAND  
HOW EACH PART  
RELATES TO  
EVERYTHING ELSE!





# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM!



The circulatory system consists of the organs that circulate blood, lymph, and other fluids throughout the body. The heart, blood vessels, and lymph nodes transport oxygen, nutrients, hormones, and the like to tissues within the body while at the same time gathering waste products from various parts of the body.

Let's learn more about how the circulatory system works.

## ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY IN THE HEART



The muscle that forms the walls of the heart contracts when it receives electrical stimuli. The impulse conduction system, shown in Figure 1-1, causes this contraction to occur.

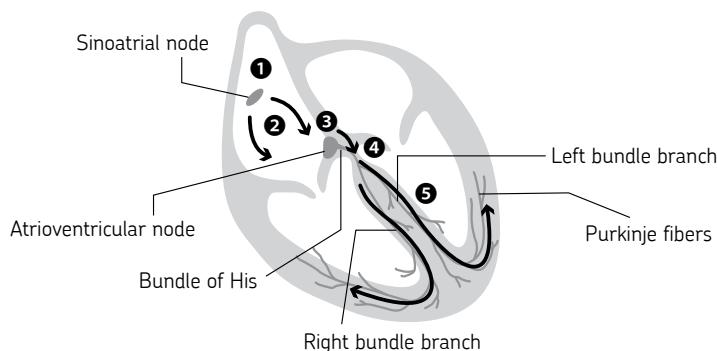


Figure 1-1: Flow of the impulse conduction system

Stimuli triggered from the *sinoatrial node* ❶ spread like waves through the entire atria, causing the atria to contract. The stimuli reach the *atrioventricular node* ❷, which is located between the left and right atria, and are transmitted to the *bundle of His* ❸. The bundle of His is divided into two branches ❹, the *left bundle branch* and *right bundle branch*. The left bundle branch and right bundle branch are further divided into numerous finer branches in the left and right ventricles, respectively. These finer branches are the *Purkinje fibers* ❺. The impulse conduction system resides in specialized muscle tissue called *cardiac muscle*, or *myocardium*.



The sinoatrial node automatically generates the stimuli, right?



That's right. It generates 60 to 80 stimuli per minute, even if it receives no instructions from the central nervous system. In other words, the sinoatrial node generates the normal heart rate and thereby acts as the heart's natural pacemaker.

Stimuli are also generated by other cardiac fibers, such as those in the atrioventricular node. However, the sinoatrial node normally controls the heart rate because it discharges stimuli faster than does any other part of the heart. If the sinoatrial node malfunctions, the

atrioventricular node becomes the pacemaker in its absence. But since the atrioventricular node generates stimuli at a slower pace, the heart rate decreases when stimulated by that node.

## HOW AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM WORKS



An electrocardiogram is a visualization of the electrical stimuli transmitted to the entire myocardium from the impulse conduction system. Normally, six electrodes are attached to the chest, and a total of four electrodes are attached to both wrists and both ankles. (Electrodes connected to both wrists and one ankle take the electrocardiogram; the right ankle is attached to a neutral, or *ground*, lead for grounding the circuit.) This lets us measure the electrocardiogram using 12 leads (see Figure 1-2).

Limb Leads	Chest Leads
Electrodes recording at three locations (right wrist, left wrist, and left ankle), plus one grounding lead (right ankle)	Electrodes at six locations surrounding the heart
Help doctors and nurses get a “view” of the heart in the vertical plane (a coronal plane)	Help doctors and nurses get a “view” of the heart in the horizontal plane (a transverse plane)

The six leads named I, II, III,  $aV_R$ ,  $aV_L$ , and  $aV_F$  are called limb leads, and the six leads named  $V_1$  to  $V_6$  are called chest leads.



Figure 1-2: A 12-lead electrocardiogram



Why are 12 leads required? That seems like a lot.



Consider the leads to be something like cameras viewing the heart from the sites where the electrodes are attached. With that many camera angles on the scene, you've got the complete, 3D picture, and not much can be missed.

If there are well-regulated contractions of the heart, normal waveforms will appear in a continuous loop. However, if there is an abnormality in the myocardium or impulse conduction system, various changes will appear in the corresponding waveform of the electrocardiogram. For example, if there are *arrhythmias*—heart contractions with unusual timing—irregular waveforms will appear. Other types of arrhythmia are tachycardia, a heart rate that is too high, and bradycardia, one that is too low.



So approximately how much blood do you think is sent to the aorta each time the heart contracts?



Hmm . . . about a soda can's worth?



Whoa . . . wait a minute. The heart is about the size of a fist. There's no way it holds 350 milliliters. The so-called *stroke volume* of the heart is approximately 70 milliliters. That's about the size of a small bottle of perfume or pudding cup.

We can calculate the cardiac output per minute as follows:

$$\text{Cardiac Output (mL/min)} = \text{Stroke Volume (mL/beat)} \times \text{Heart Rate (beats/min)}$$

### DID YOU KNOW?

The heart rate of an infant is faster than that of an adult; it slows as the child ages. Most adults have a resting heart rate of about 60–80 beats per minute. An elderly person tends to have a slightly slower heart rate than a young or middle-aged adult.

Since the circulating blood volume in the human body is approximately 5 liters, all the blood circulates through the entire body in approximately 1 minute.



## HOW THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AFFECTS THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM



Your heart rate increases when you're surprised, speaking in front of an audience, playing sports, or in other stressful situations. This increase is caused by the activity of your autonomic nervous system (see page 138). If more blood flow is required due to stress or exertion, the sympathetic nervous system is excited, the sinoatrial node is stimulated, and your heart rate increases. On the other hand, when you relax, your parasympathetic nervous system reduces your heart rate.



But aren't the stimuli from the sinoatrial node automatically generated without receiving any instructions from the brain?



That's a good question! The sinoatrial node can certainly generate stimuli automatically, but the frequency of those stimuli is regulated by the *autonomic nervous system*.

The autonomic nervous system controls physiological responses ranging from blood pressure and heart rate to dilation of the pupils of the eyes. There are two branches of the autonomic nervous system: the *sympathetic branch* (which generates the “fight or flight” response) and the *parasympathetic branch* (which generates the “rest and digest” response).

The sympathetic nervous system is responsible for increasing the heart rate and causing blood vessel vasoconstriction (decreased diameter of blood vessels), both of which contribute to an increase in blood pressure. Conversely, the parasympathetic system is responsible for decreasing the heart rate, and the activation of the parasympathetic system leads to a decrease in blood pressure.

## THE CORONARY ARTERIES



But before we begin talking about blood circulation, we should learn how the heart itself acquires oxygen and nutrients. Do you know which blood vessels send oxygen and nutrients to the myocardium?



The coronary arteries?



That's right. The *coronary arteries* are called that because they encircle the heart in a crown shape. Just think about a coronation ceremony for a new queen, where she gets her crown.

The coronary arteries are roughly divided into the right coronary artery and left coronary artery (Figure 1-3). The smaller branches of the coronary arteries penetrate the surface of the cardiac muscle mass and thus serve as the primary sources of oxygen and nutrients for the myocardium.

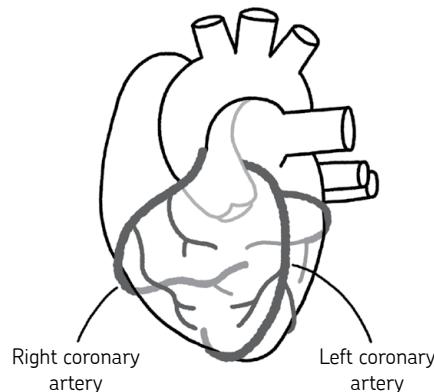


Figure 1-3: The coronary arteries

You'd think the heart would be able to get all the oxygen and nutrients it needs from the blood it is constantly pumping through its chambers. But actually, it can absorb only a minuscule amount of oxygen and nutrients that way, so the coronary arteries are needed to deliver blood deep into the muscle tissue of the heart.

The arteries of most internal organs branch and reconnect (*anastomose*). Therefore, even if a blood vessel is blocked at one location, the blood will flow along another route. However, the coronary arteries surrounding the heart are called end arteries since they are structured with no anastomoses between arterial branches (Figure 1-4). Therefore, if there is a blockage somewhere, blood will cease flowing beyond that point, causing a heart attack.

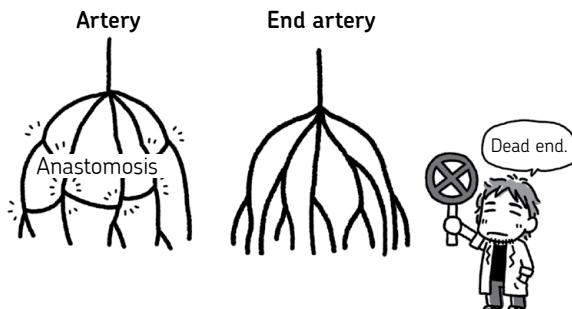


Figure 1-4: End arteries branch with no points of anastomosis.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The coronary arteries aren't the only end arteries. Others are found in the brain. A blockage (or vascular occlusion) in these end arteries in the brain is very serious. A complete blockage will cause a stroke.



## BLOOD CIRCULATION



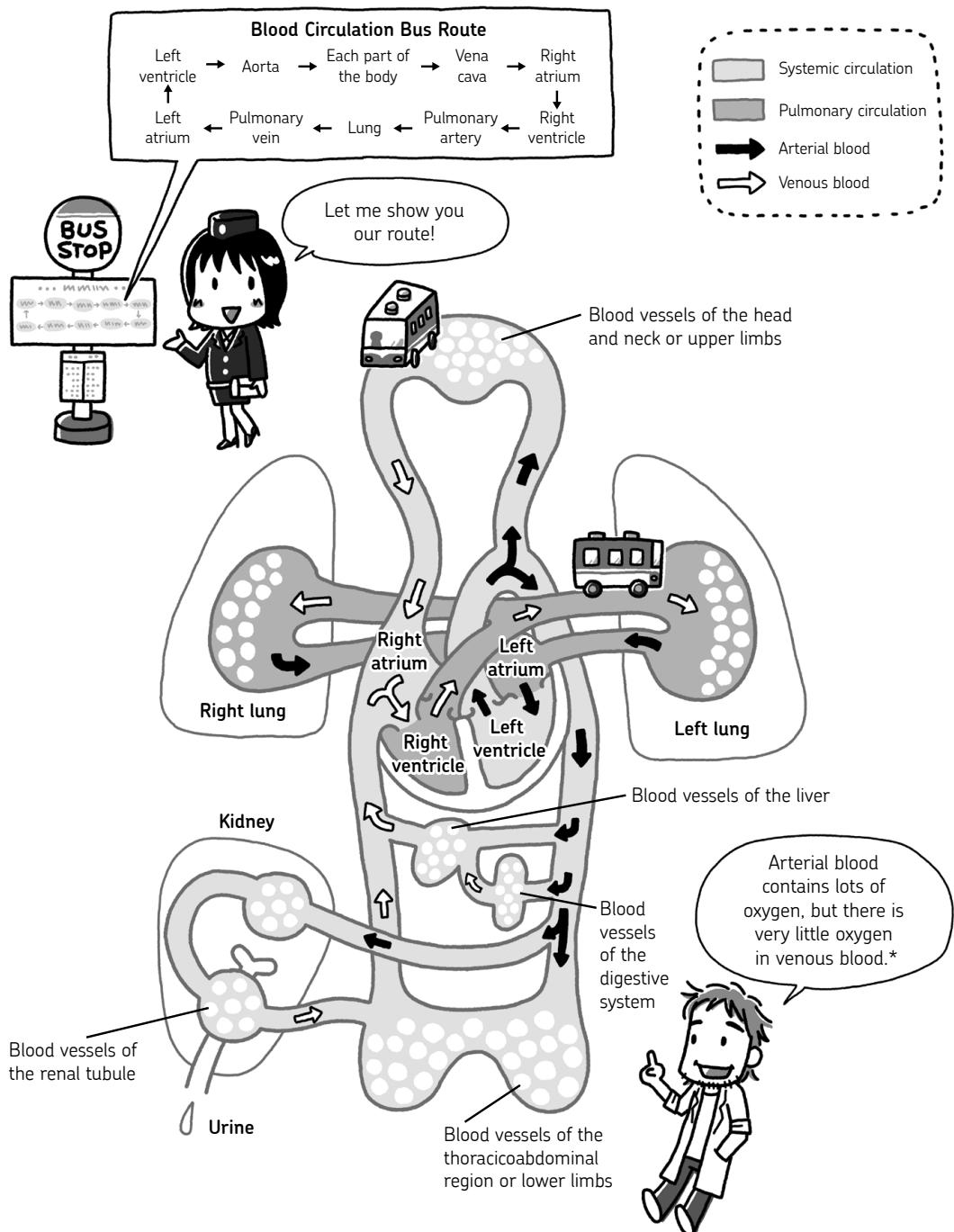
We learned that there are two circuits for blood circulation: pulmonary circulation and systemic circulation. Do you think you can explain them properly?



*Pulmonary circulation* circulates from the right ventricle and through the lungs to capture oxygen before returning to the left atrium, and *systemic circulation* circulates from the left ventricle and through the entire body to send oxygen and nutrients to the body before returning to the right atrium.



That's exactly right! The pulmonary circulation and systemic circulation flows are depicted in a rough diagram in Figure 1-5. Since this is basic information needed for studying each of the internal organs later, make sure you understand this entire drawing.



\* Generally, arterial (oxygenated) blood flows in arteries, and venous (low in oxygen) blood flows in veins. There are some exceptions of course. Deoxygenated blood flows in the pulmonary artery from the heart to the lungs, and the pulmonary veins carry oxygenated blood from the lungs back to the heart.

Figure 1-5: Blood circulation

We ought to also touch on arteries and veins here. Remember that *arteries* are blood vessels carrying blood away from the heart and *veins* are blood vessels returning blood to the heart via the capillaries.

Because arteries receive blood that is pushed out of the heart under great pressure, the blood vessel walls are thick, and their elasticity and internal pressure are both high. Veins have thin blood vessel walls with valves at various locations to prevent blood from flowing backward. The internal pressure is low, and blood flow is assisted by surrounding muscles. Some veins run just below the skin. These are called superficial veins. Blood is often drawn from the median cubital vein on the inside of the elbow. This is also a superficial vein.

Although arteries often run deep within the body, they also pass through places where it is easy to take a pulse (see Figure 1-6).

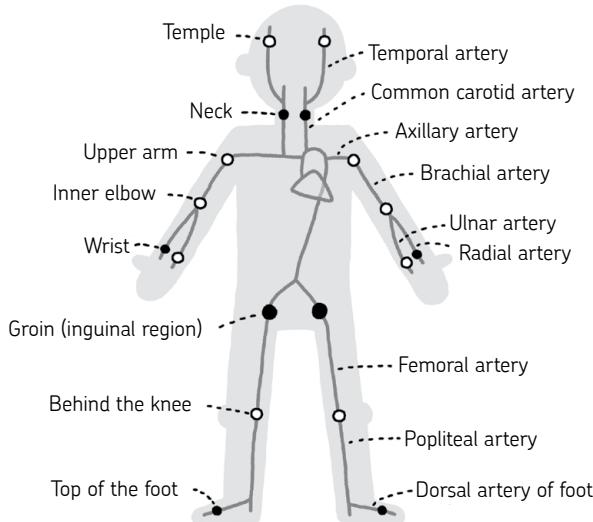


Figure 1-6: Locations for taking a pulse



These are arteries that run through locations that are relatively shallow, such as the wrist, aren't they?



That's right. In a medical clinic, your pulse is often taken using the radial artery of your wrist or the carotid artery of your neck.

## BLOOD PRESSURE



*Blood pressure* is the internal pressure inside blood vessels, but the term is usually used to mean the pressure in large arteries near the heart, such as in the upper arm. What are some factors that determine blood pressure?



Factors? Well, er, age and diet and . . .



Yes, blood pressure certainly tends to increase as a person becomes middle aged and older, but let's consider physiological factors here.

Three factors that determine blood pressure are the girth of the blood vessels, the circulating blood volume, and the contractile force of the heart, or cardiac contractile force (see Figure 1-7). For example, if the circulating blood volume (the total volume of blood in the arteries) and the cardiac contractile force are fixed, then blood pressure will increase if the blood vessels are smaller. Also, the blood pressure will drop if the blood volume decreases because of a hemorrhage or if the contractile pressure of the heart decreases because of a heart attack.

Blood pressure is determined by the girth of the blood vessels, circulating blood volume, and cardiac contractile force.

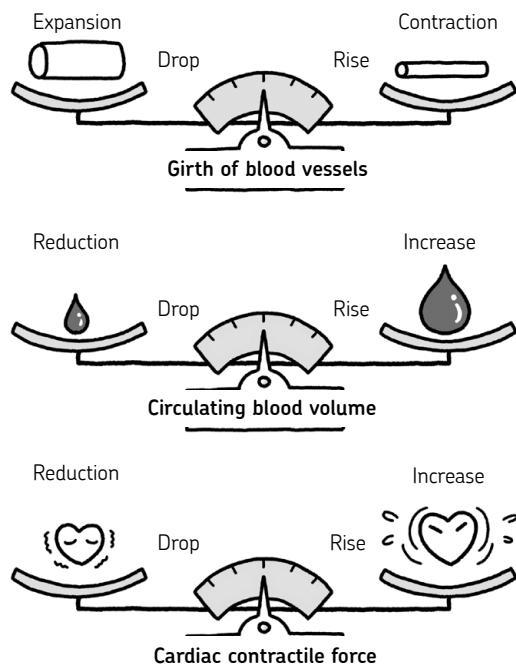


Figure 1-7: Factors that determine blood pressure

# MEASURING BLOOD PRESSURE



You've studied the principles and techniques of blood pressure measurement, haven't you?



Sure, I did that in basic nursing.



Blood pressure varies like a wave, getting higher when the ventricles contract and lower when they relax. The maximum pressure is called the *systolic pressure*, and the minimum is called the *diastolic pressure*.

You inflate the cuff that's wrapped around the upper arm to restrict the blood flow. Then you release the air in the cuff a little at a time while you listen to the artery through a stethoscope. When you start to hear a tapping sound (called Korotkoff sounds), that is the systolic pressure. You continue to release air, and when you no longer can hear any sound, that is the diastolic pressure. The cuff's pressure readings at these two points give you the patient's blood pressure (see Figure 1-8).

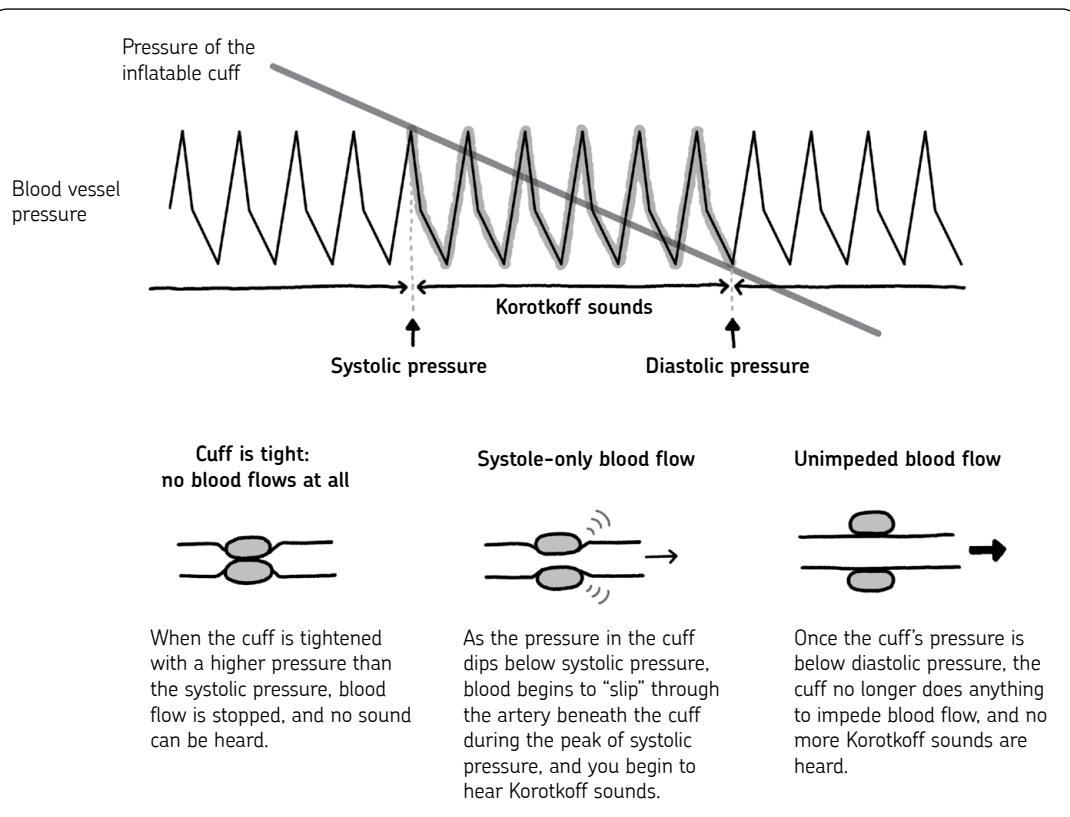


Figure 1-8: Blood pressure measurement by the auscultatory method

## DID YOU KNOW?

Blood pressure units are represented by mm Hg (millimeters of mercury). The number of mm Hg indicates the number of millimeters that mercury would be pressed upward in a tube by the pressure.



## THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM



The last part of the circulatory system is the *lymphatic system*, which recovers bodily fluids that seep into tissues from capillaries and returns them to the heart. It also supports the immune system. In this way, the lymphatic organs can be said to reside in both the circulatory system and the immune system. In peripheral tissue, interstitial fluid is exchanged between capillaries and tissue, but some of the interstitial fluid is collected in the lymphatic vessels. The bodily fluid in the lymphatic vessels is called *lymph*. The lymph flow rate is approximately 2 to 3 liters per day.

The lymphatic vessels start from lymphatic capillaries, which gradually come together to form larger lymph vessels. After passing through many lymph nodes along the way, they finally enter the left and right venous angles, which are confluence points of the subclavian veins and internal jugular veins (see Figure 1-9). Valves are attached to the interior of the lymphatic vessels to prevent the lymph flow from reversing direction.

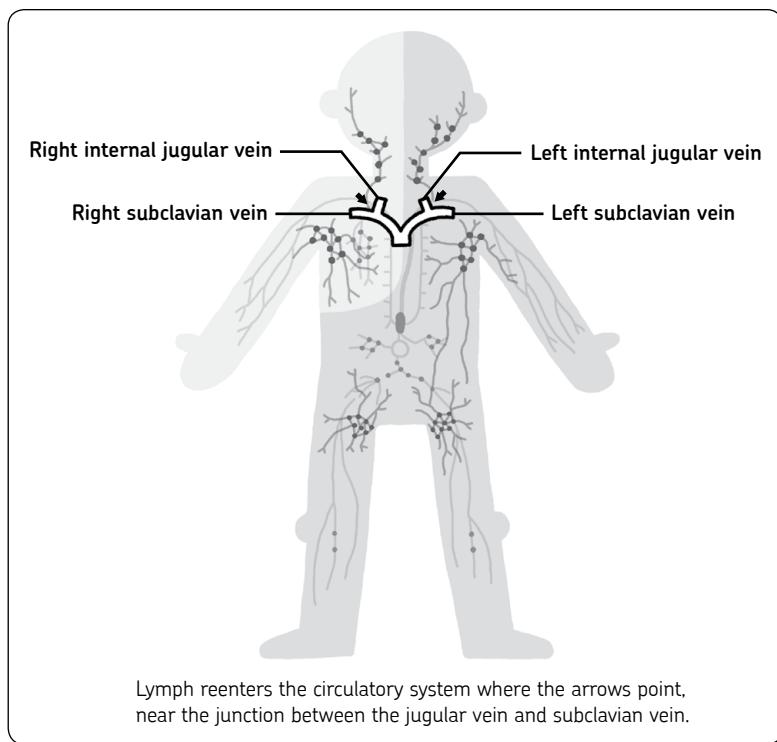


Figure 1-9: The lymphatic system



The lymphatic vessels are not symmetrical on the left and right sides of the body.



Good eye! Notice the light and dark shading in Figure 1-9. The right lymphatic trunk, in which the lymphatic vessels from the upper right half of the body are collected together, enters into the right venous angle. The collected lymphatic vessels from the remaining upper left half of the body and the entire lower half of the body enter into the left venous angle.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Cancer that starts in the lymph nodes is called lymphoma. More often, cancer starts somewhere else and then spreads to lymph nodes. When cancer spreads or metastasizes, it often is found in the lymph nodes.

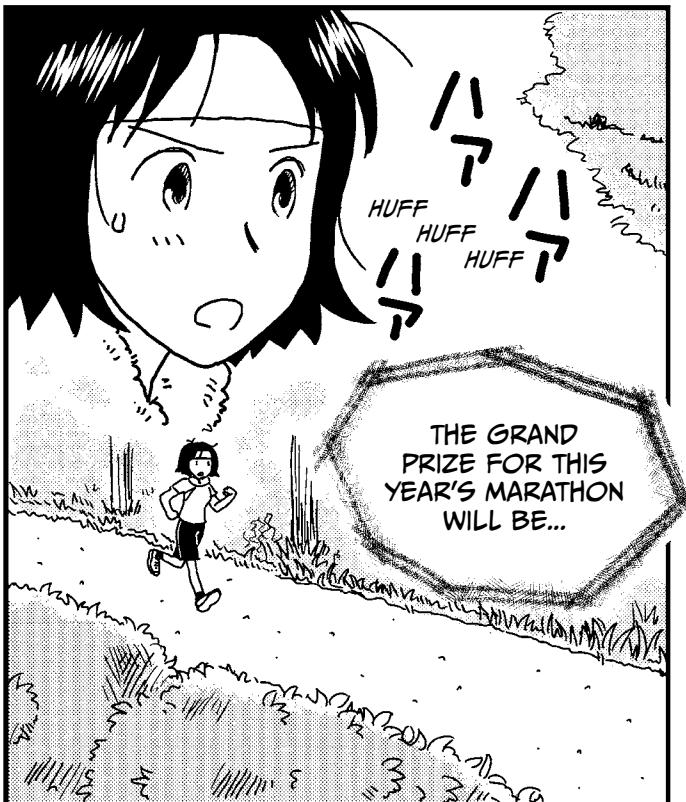
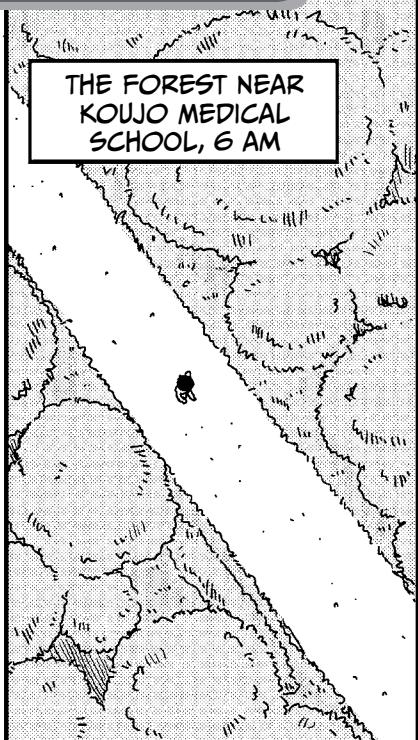


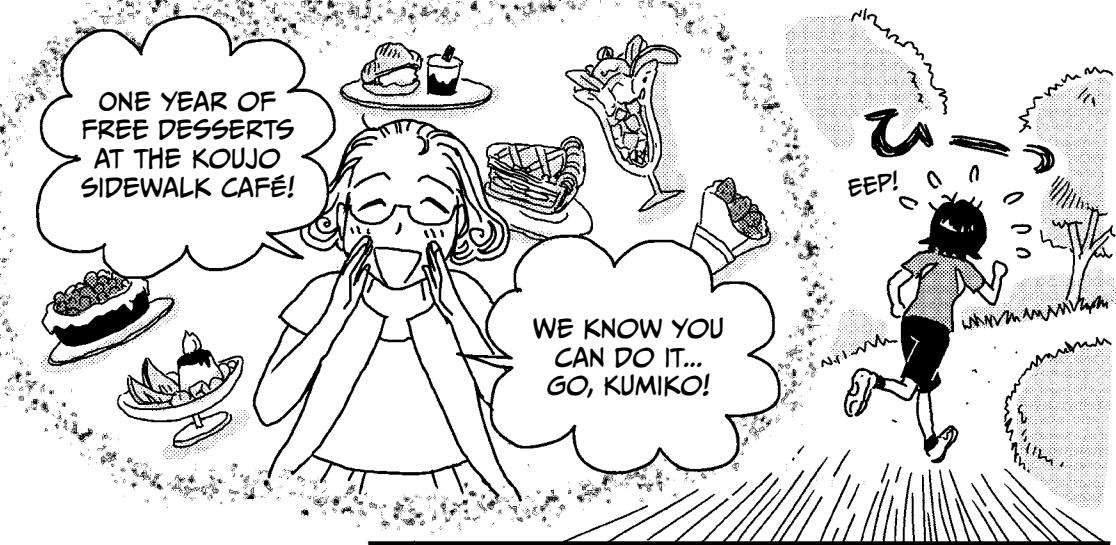
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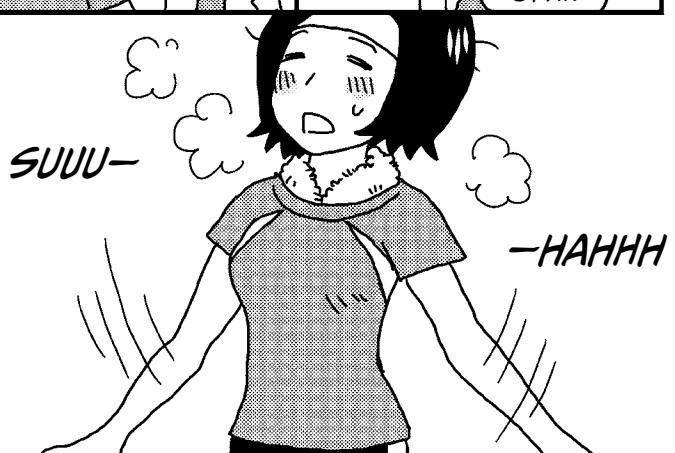
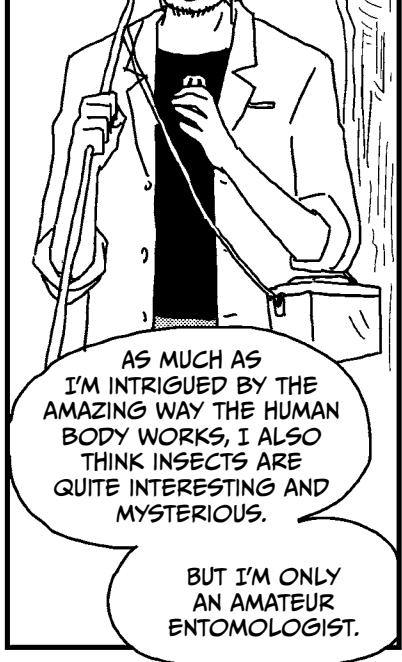
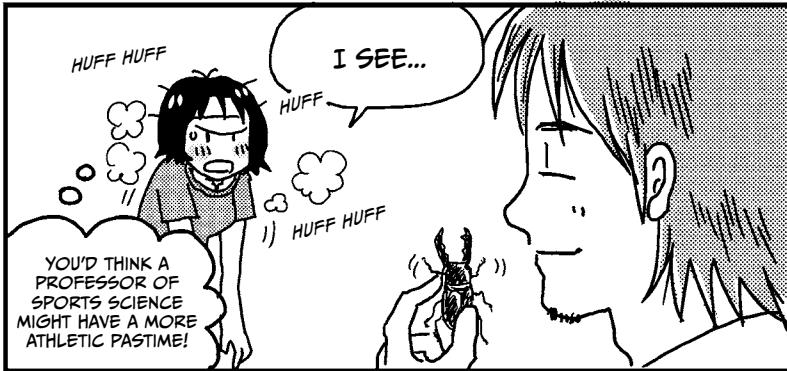
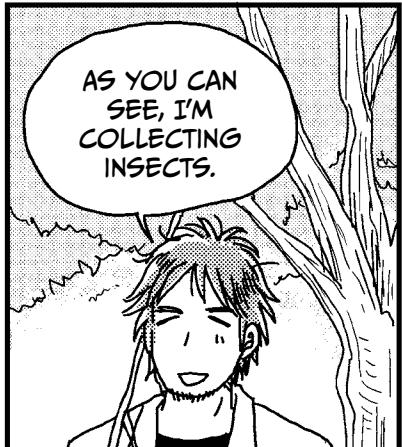
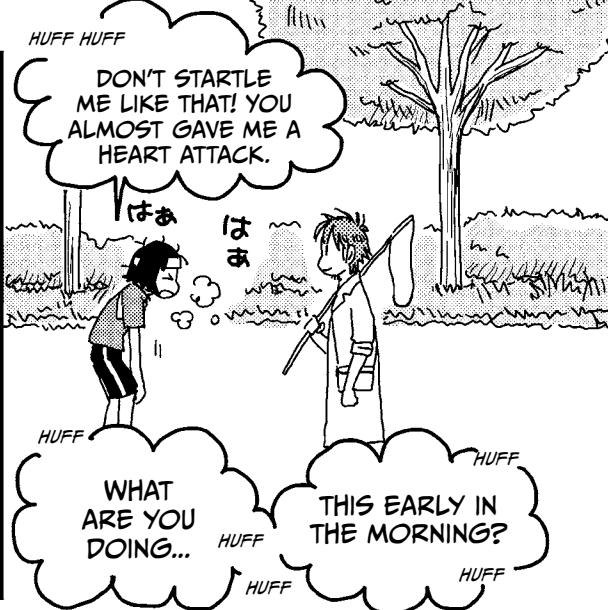
## THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

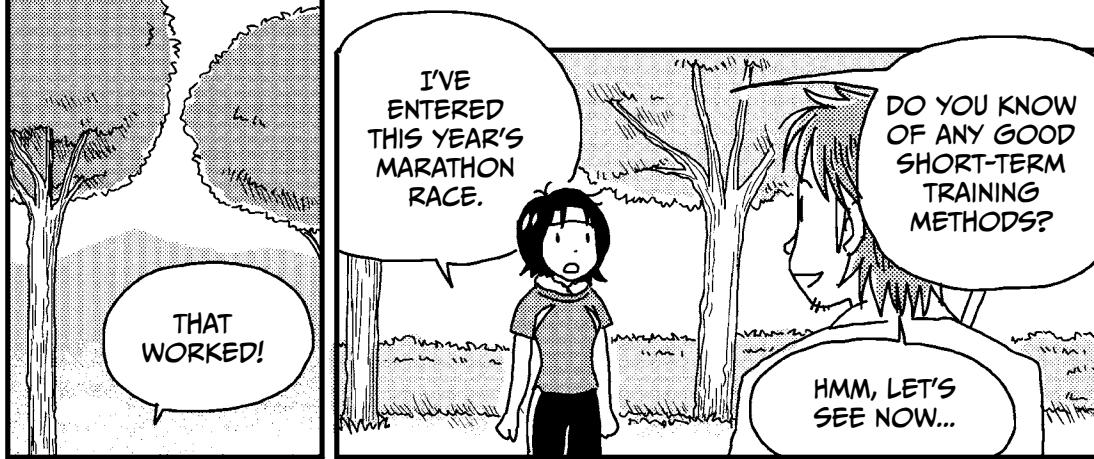
WHAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE HEART  
AND THE LUNGS?

RESPIRATION'S JOB



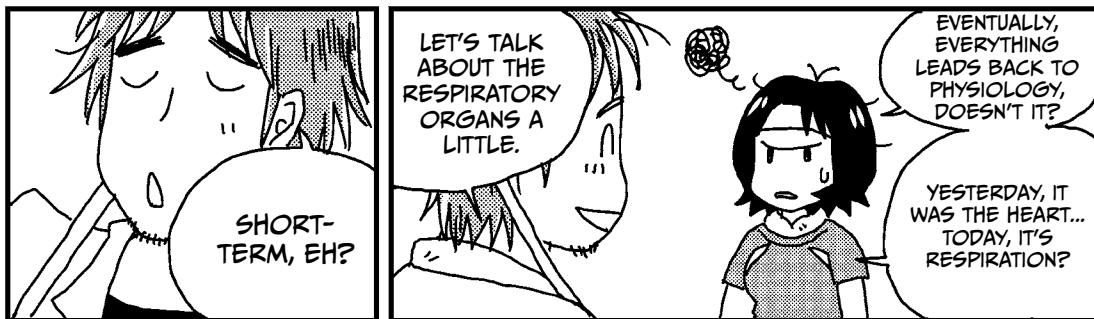






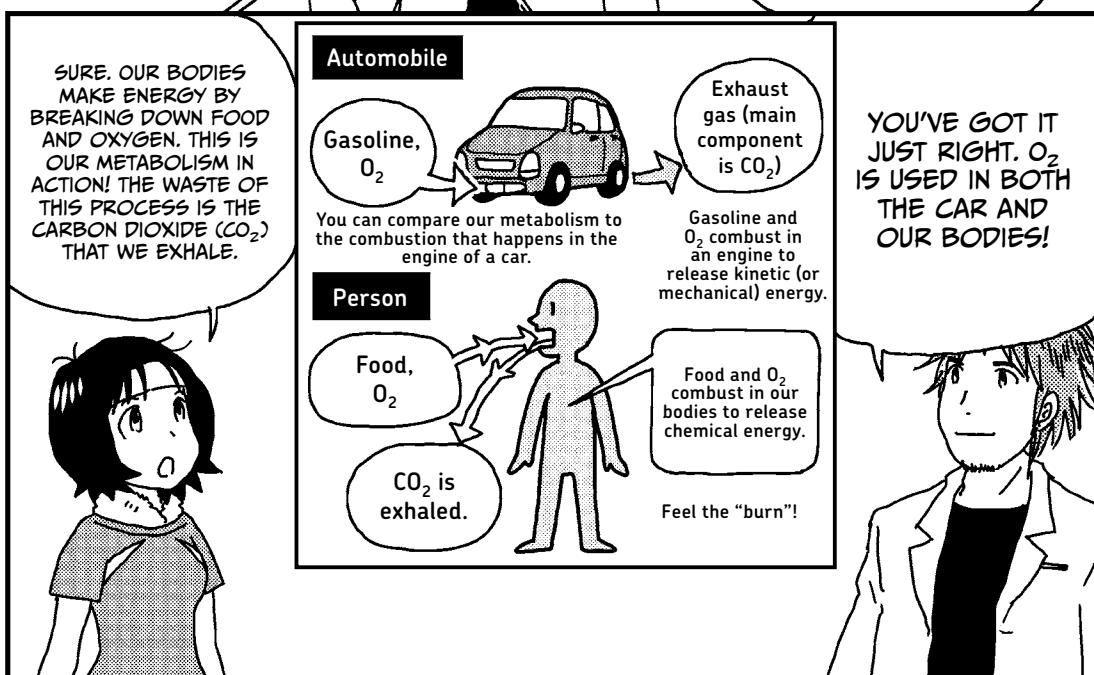
DO YOU KNOW OF ANY GOOD SHORT-TERM TRAINING METHODS?

HMM, LET'S SEE NOW...

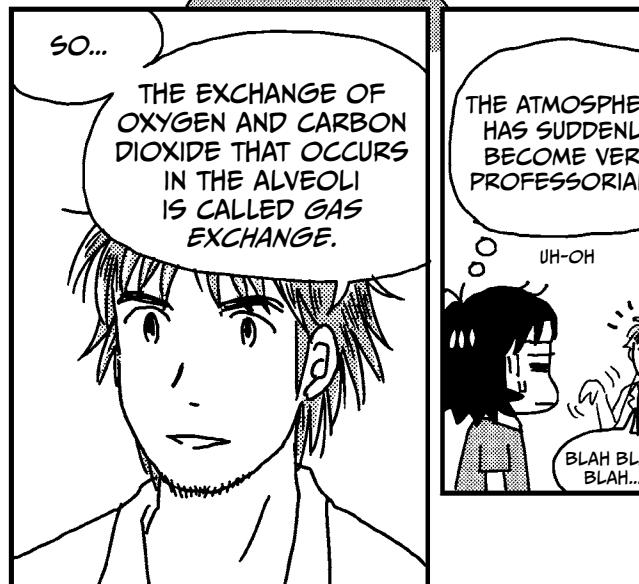
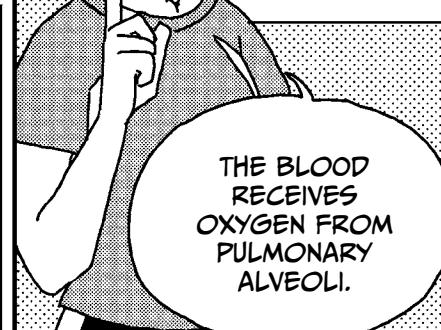
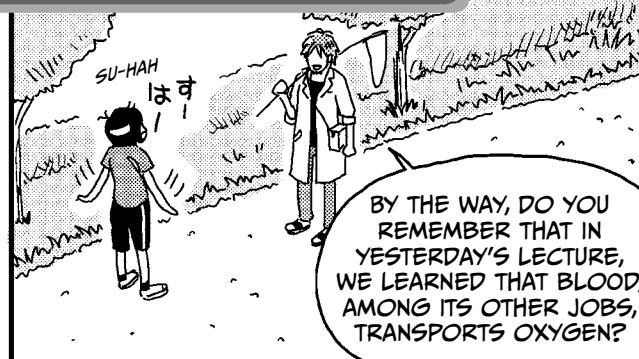


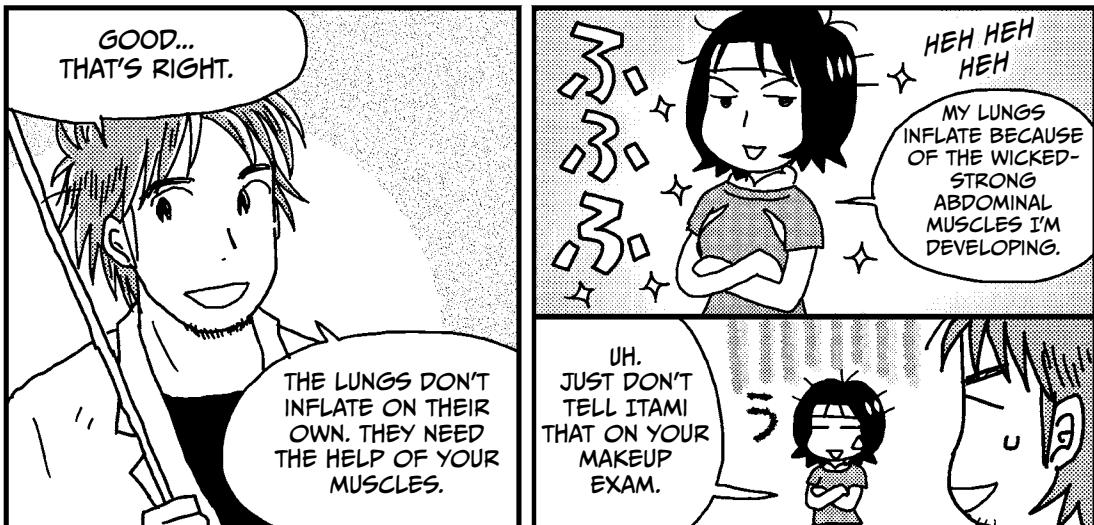
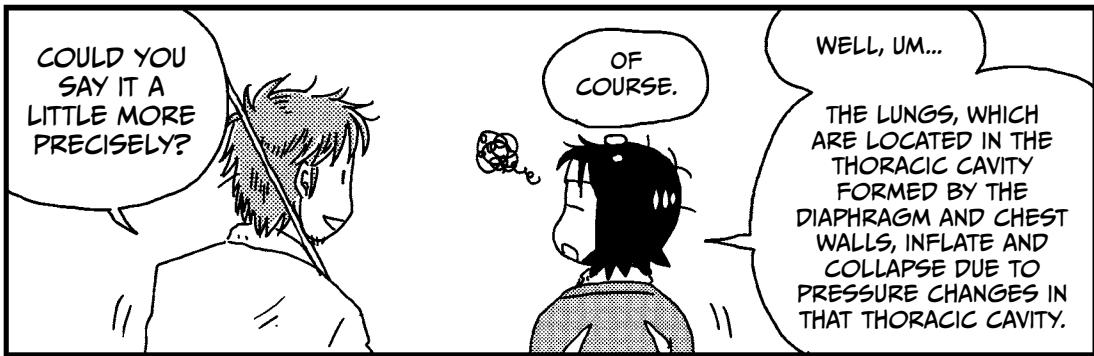
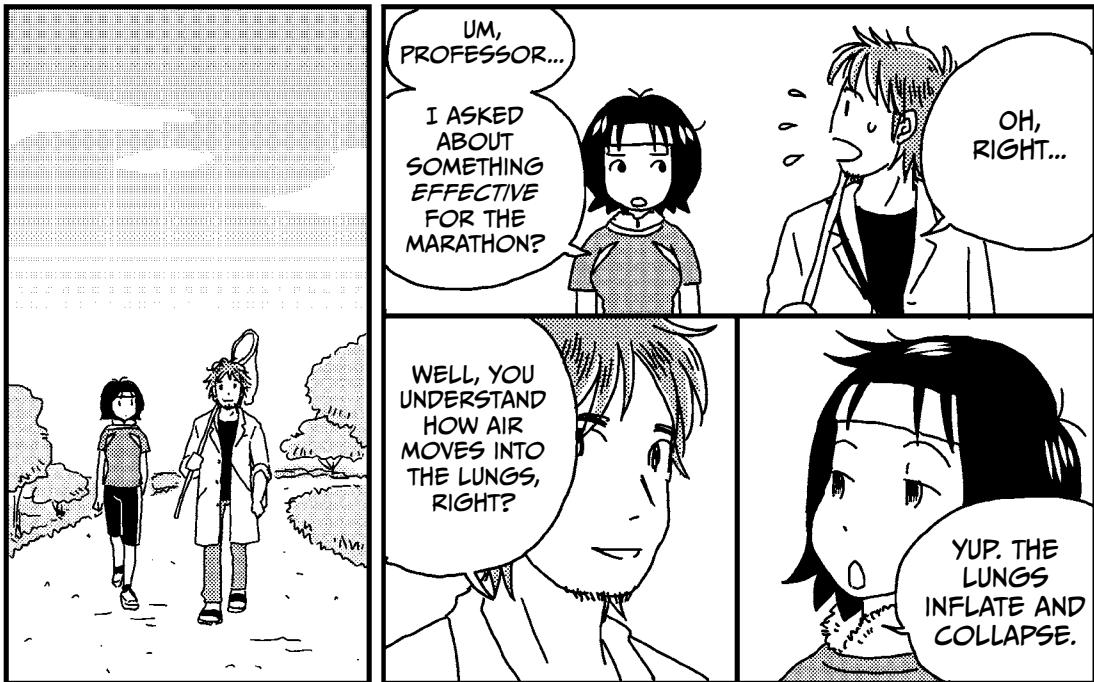
EVENTUALLY, EVERYTHING LEADS BACK TO PHYSIOLOGY, DOESN'T IT?

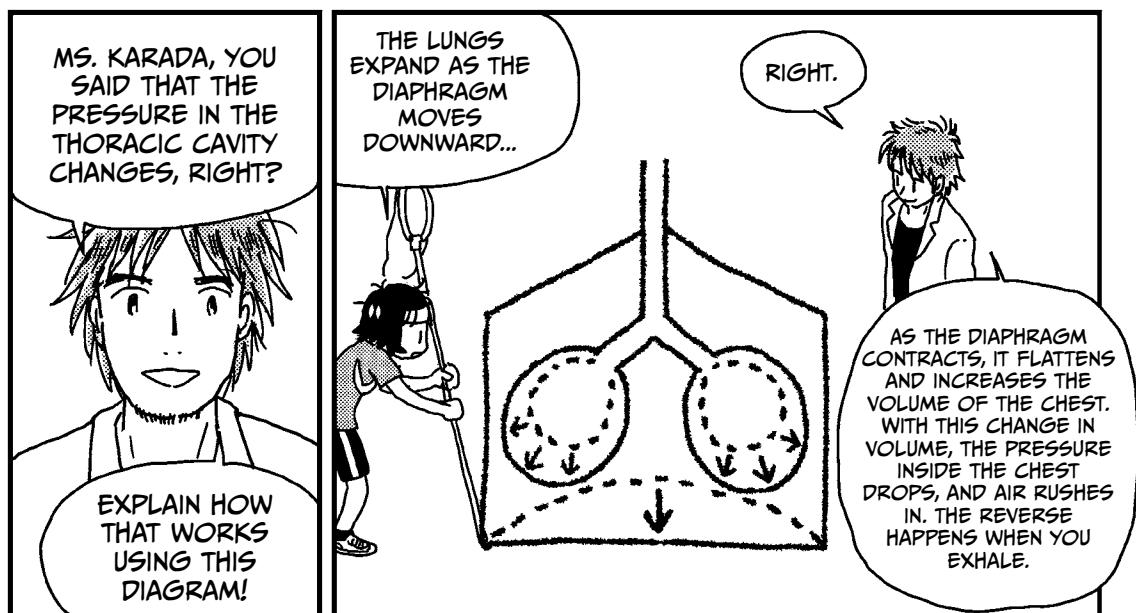
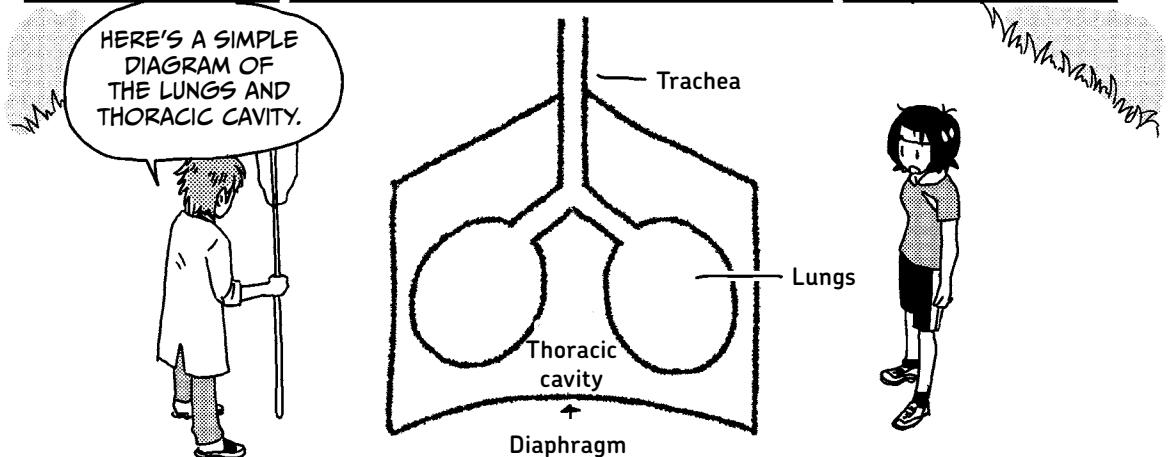
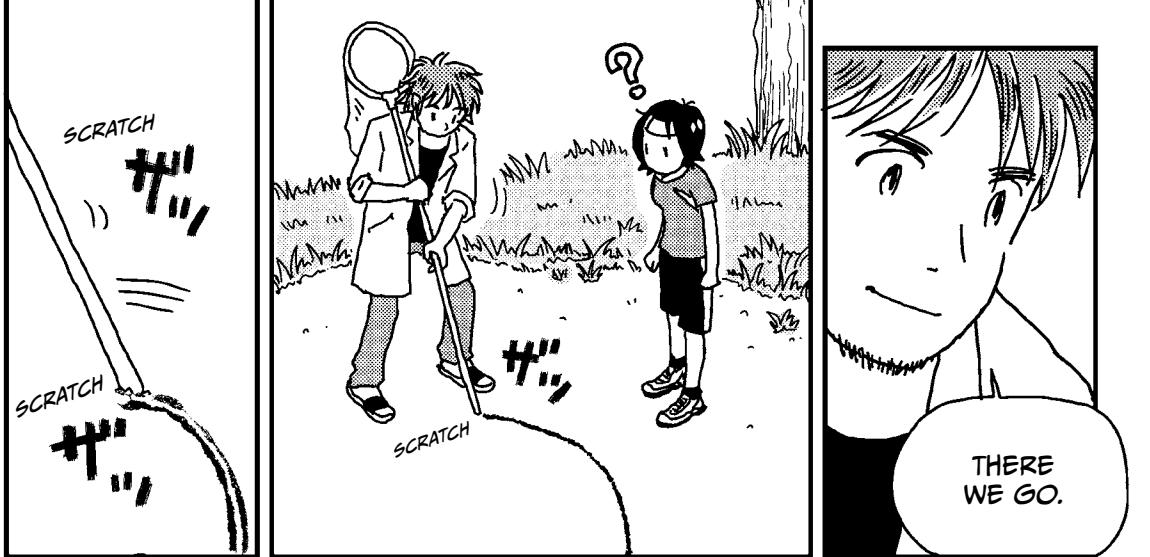
YESTERDAY, IT WAS THE HEART... TODAY, IT'S RESPIRATION?



## HOW VENTILATION WORKS







AND  
BTW...

BEEF  
DIAPHRAGM IS  
DELICIOUS.

IT'S CALLED  
HARAMI WHEN WE  
ORDER YAKINIKU  
GRILLED MEAT!



RESPIRATION  
THAT USES THE  
DIAPHRAGM  
IS CALLED  
ABDOMINAL  
BREATHING.

HUH?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,  
I'VE OFTEN SEEN TIPS ABOUT  
ABDOMINAL BREATHING  
TECHNIQUES IN DIET AND  
EXERCISE MAGAZINES.

ABDOMINAL  
BREATHING IS OFTEN  
PRACTICED IN TAI CHI  
OR YOGA, AS WELL  
AS BY SINGERS AND  
THESE WHO PLAY  
WIND INSTRUMENTS  
LIKE THE TRUMPET.  
IT ALLOWS FOR  
DEEPER BREATHS.

WHY WOULD IT  
BE IMPORTANT TO  
BREATHE WITH THE  
DIAPHRAGM?

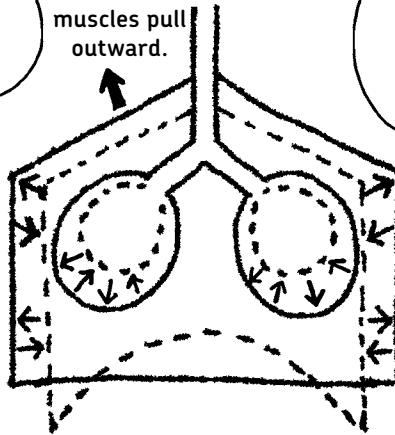
TAKING SLOWER,  
DEEPER BREATHS  
ENGAGES YOUR  
PARASYMPATHETIC  
SYSTEM AND  
HELPS YOU RELAX.  
BREATHING WITH  
YOUR CHEST,  
OR THORACIC  
BREATHING, IS  
MORE SHALLOW.

AHH...  
I SEE.

AREN'T THE MUSCLES USED FOR THORACIC BREATHING CALLED THE INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES?

External intercostal muscles pull outward.

YES, THEY CAN HELP SUPPLEMENT BREATHING TO CREATE QUICK, SHALLOW BREATHS. THIS THORACIC BREATHING MIGHT OCCUR IN A STRESSFUL SITUATION, WHEN YOU NEED QUICK BURSTS OF OXYGEN.



THE CONTRACTION OF THE EXTERNAL INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES EXPANDS THE THORACIC CAVITY DURING INHALATION.

THEY RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL STATE IN EXHALATION.

FUN FACT! FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, BECAUSE THE GROWING UTERUS DECREASES THE MOBILITY OF THE DIAPHRAGM, THEIR RESPIRATORY RATE INCREASES TO MAINTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF VENTILATION.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT INTERNAL INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES?

THEY DRAW INWARD...

THEY ARE USED WHEN BREATHING HEAVILY, TOO.



THEY CAN HELP PUSH OUT AIR DURING EXHALATION. YOU CAN FEEL YOURSELF USING YOUR EXTERNAL INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES WHEN INHALING...

AND YOUR INTERNAL INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES WHEN FORCEFULLY EXHALING.

NOW YOU'VE GOT ME DREAMING ABOUT KALBI/ SHORT RIBS! ;)



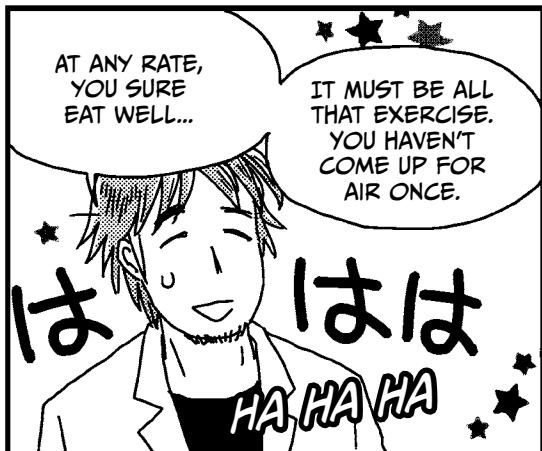
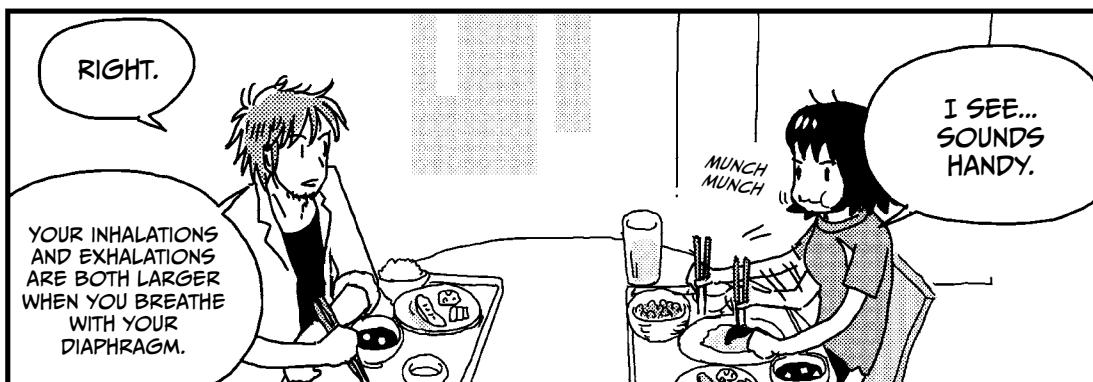
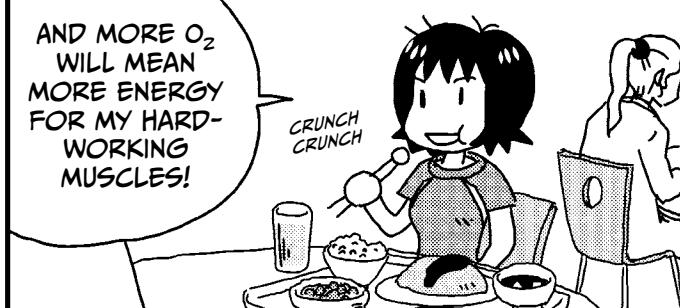
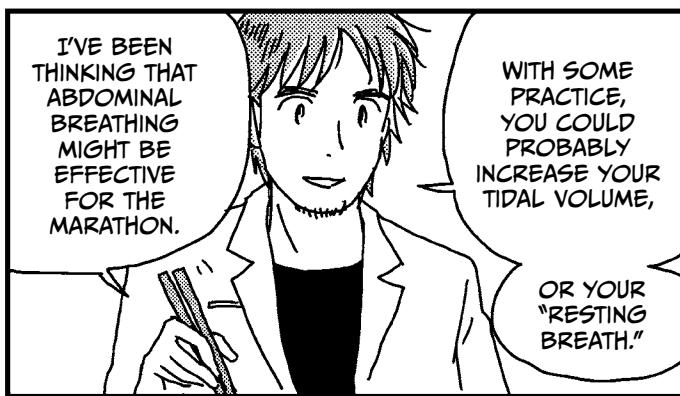
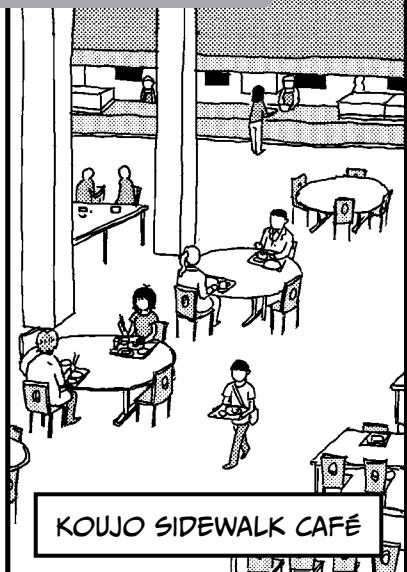
DID YOU CATCH ALL THAT?

IT IS ACTUALLY THE MUSCLES BETWEEN THE RIBS, BUT...



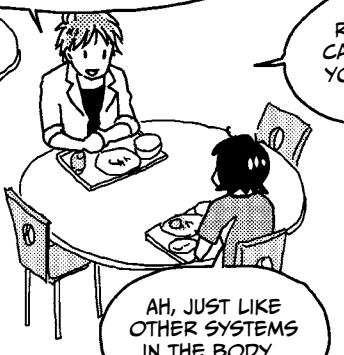
FOR NOW, THOUGH, HOW ABOUT SOME BREAKFAST?

## CONTROLLING RESPIRATION



SO WE'VE TALKED ABOUT HOW YOU CAN CONSCIOUSLY CONTROL YOUR BREATHING.

BUT YOUR RESPIRATORY RATE CAN VARY EVEN WHEN YOU AREN'T THINKING ABOUT IT.



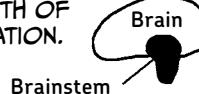
AH, JUST LIKE OTHER SYSTEMS IN THE BODY...

...THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AUTOMATICALLY ADAPTS TO RESPOND TO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.



RIGHT.

THERE ARE AREAS IN THE BRAINSTEM CALLED RESPIRATORY CENTERS, WHICH CONTROL THE RESPIRATION RATE AND DEPTH OF RESPIRATION.



IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY...

THE BRAINSTEM IS LIKE A KIND OF LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM, ISN'T IT?

CARDIAC CYCLE

RESPIRATION

THAT'S RIGHT. OUR MOST BASIC FUNCTIONS ARE CONTROLLED THERE.

FOR EXAMPLE, INHALE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN... AND THEN HOLD YOUR BREATH. EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE SO FAR WAS BY YOUR OWN INTENTION, RIGHT?



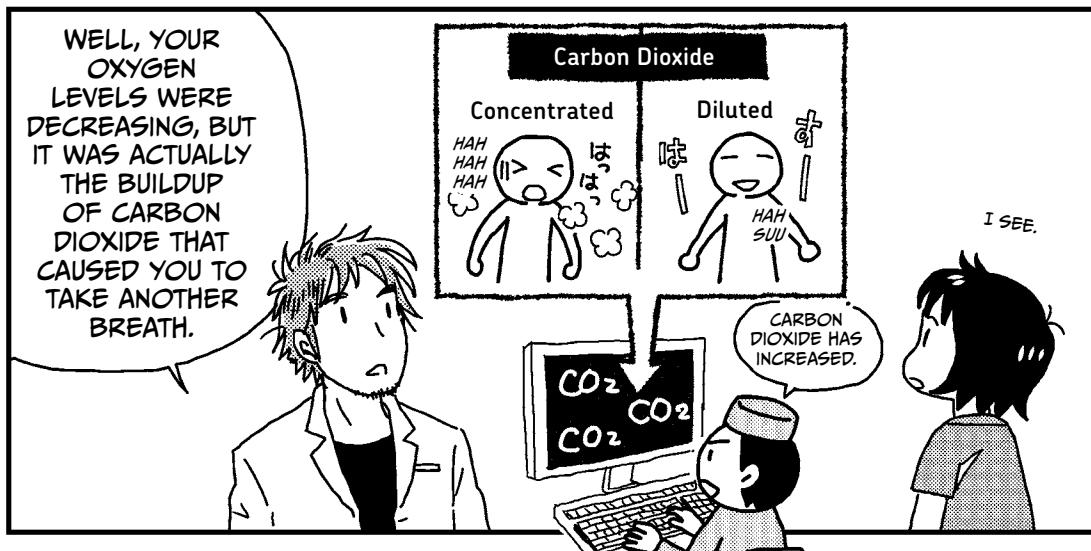
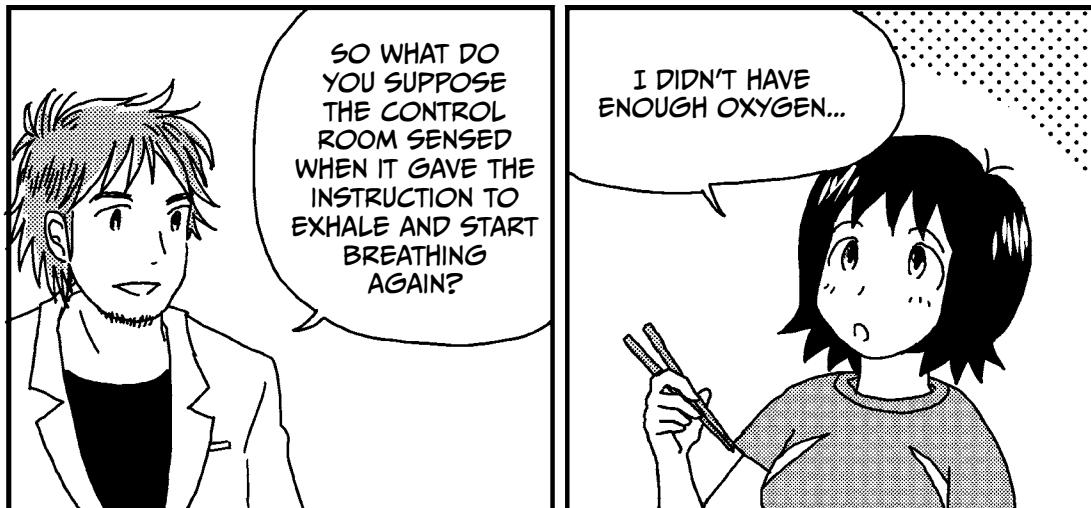
Voluntary



BUT WHEN YOU REACH A LIMIT...



...YOU HAVE TO EXHALE, AND YOUR RESPIRATION RATE REALLY INCREASES.



THE MEASURED VALUE OF THIS CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION IS CALLED THE PARTIAL PRESSURE OF CARBON DIOXIDE.\*

WHEN THERE'S MORE CARBON DIOXIDE, BREATHING SPEEDS UP, AND IF THERE'S LESS CARBON DIOXIDE, THEN BREATHING IS SLOWED!

### Carbon Dioxide and Respiratory Movement

External intercostal muscles

Brainstem

Internal intercostal muscles

Diaphragm

THE BRAINSTEM MONITORS CHANGES IN THE PARTIAL PRESSURE OF CARBON DIOXIDE. THEN IT ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS TO MUSCLES LIKE THE INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES AND DIAPHRAGM. THESE MUSCLES SHRINK AND EXPAND THE LUNGS AT A FASTER RATE OR WITH GREATER FORCE AS NEEDED.

\* IF THERE'S A BUILDUP OF  $\text{CO}_2$ , THIS COMBINES WITH  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  IN THE BODY TO CREATE A MORE ACIDIC ENVIRONMENT (WITH MORE  $\text{H}^+$  HYDROGEN IONS FLOATING AROUND). THE MEDULLA IN THE BRAINSTEM IS SENSITIVE TO THESE CHANGES IN  $\text{CO}_2$  AND ACIDITY, AND IT CONTROLS THE RESPIRATORY RATE ACCORDINGLY.

# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM!

The respiratory organs form a system that takes in oxygen to produce energy and disposes of the resulting carbon dioxide. Let's learn some more about the lungs, which are the main players in this system.

## EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL RESPIRATION



So far, we've explained *ventilation*, which moves air into and out of the lungs. Next, we'll explain how the oxygen that's taken in by breathing is transported within the body and how carbon dioxide is disposed of at the same time.

This process is called *gas exchange*. Gas exchange occurs in two ways in the human body: through external respiration and internal respiration. *External respiration* happens in the lungs, where gases are exchanged between blood cells and alveoli (Figure 2-1). Alveoli are microscopic clusters of pockets located at the end of the airways (or bronchioles). This is how the blood receives oxygen from the air we breathe while expelling carbon dioxide.

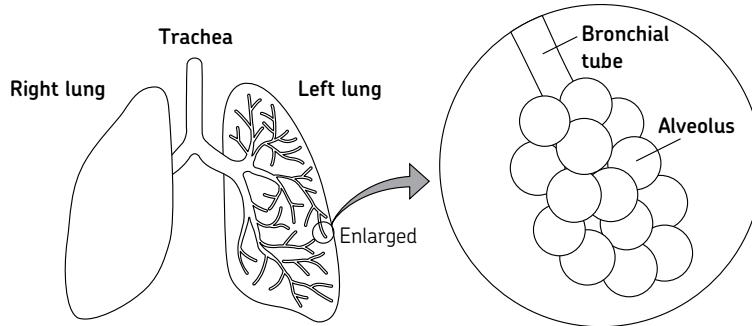


Figure 2-1: Enlargement of pulmonary alveoli



The gas exchange of external respiration is performed by each individual alveolus, right?



That's right. Although a single alveolus is tiny, there is an enormous number of them: approximately 700 million within a pair of human lungs. If all of the alveoli were spread out on a flat surface, they would cover an area approximately the size of a badminton court, or 100 square meters. The human body uses a lot of surface area for gas exchange!

*Internal respiration* is gas exchange that is performed within each cell as blood circulates through the tissues of the entire body. This is how oxygen is delivered through blood to cells in the body that need energy. You can refer to Figure 2-2 to see a full picture of how blood circulates throughout the body to perform internal and external respiration.

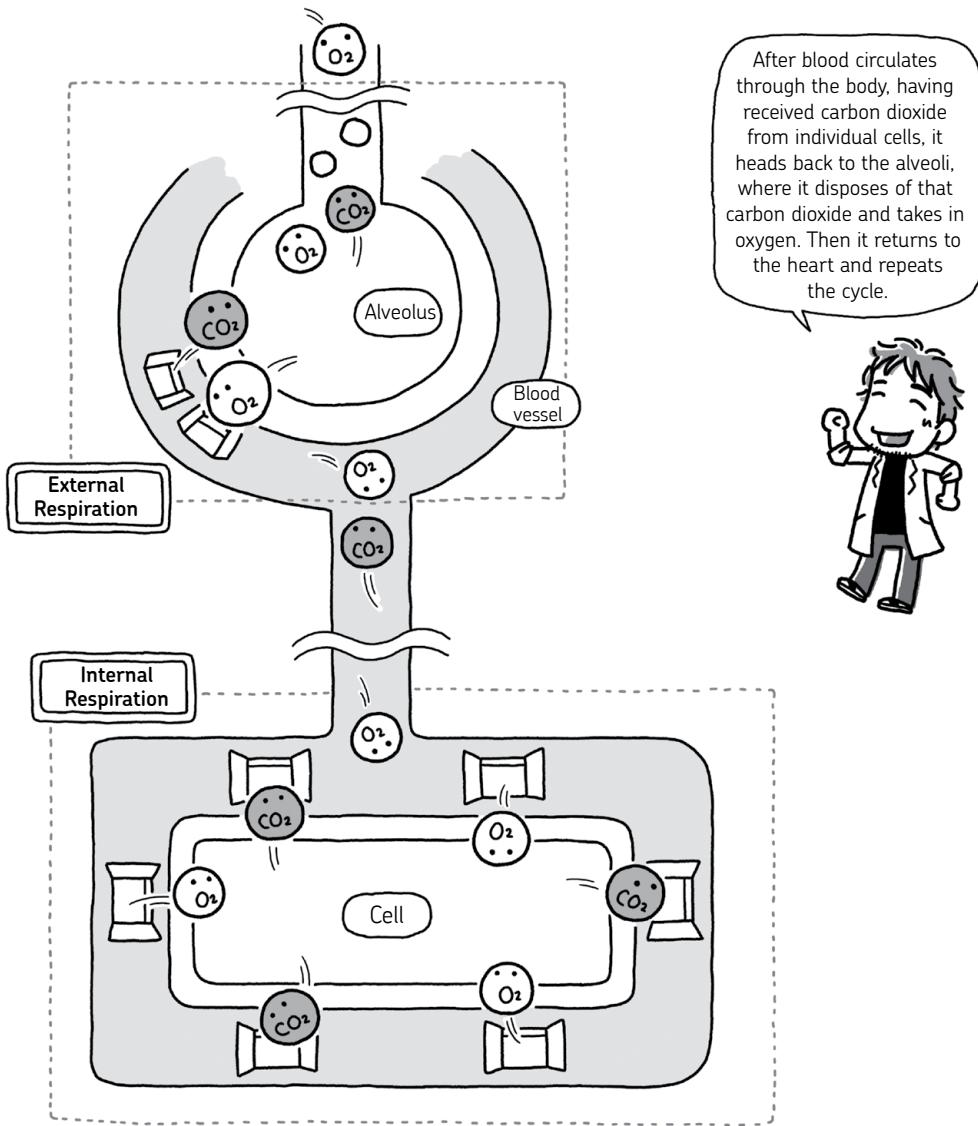


Figure 2-2: External and internal respiration

### DID YOU KNOW?

Gas exchange in external and internal respiration is performed via a process called *diffusion* (see page 107). During diffusion, the gas spreads out from a concentrated region to a dilute region until ultimately, the concentration is even across both regions.



## PARTIAL PRESSURES OF GASES IN THE BLOOD



Approximately how much oxygen and carbon dioxide are contained in the blood, and how does the proportion change during gas exchange? To answer this, we need to learn about the partial pressures of the gases.

When you have a mixture of gases, the partial pressure of a single gas is the pressure that gas would have if it took up all of the space occupied by the mixed gas. For example, the air around us contains a mixture of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and other gases. The partial pressure of oxygen is what you would get if you got rid of all the other gases besides oxygen and then measured the pressure of that oxygen within the same volume that the mixture previously filled. Partial pressure is represented by the letter  $P$  (for pressure), and the chemical name of the gas is added as a subscript. For example, the partial pressure of oxygen is  $P_{O_2}$ , and the partial pressure of carbon dioxide is  $P_{CO_2}$ .

Partial pressure is measured by millimeters of mercury, or mm Hg. If we take a volume of air under normal atmospheric pressure (1 atm, or 760 mm Hg), the partial pressure of oxygen within it is 160 mm Hg and the partial pressure of nitrogen is 600 mm Hg, as shown in Figure 2-3.

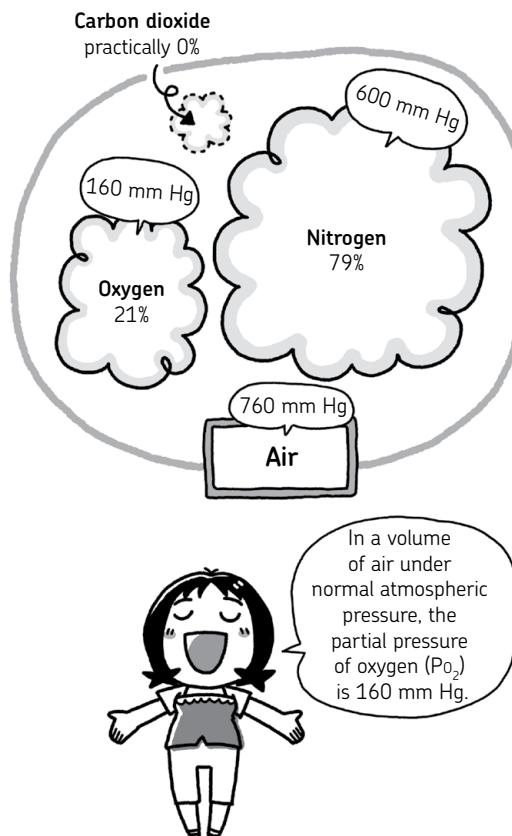


Figure 2-3: Components of the atmosphere and their partial pressures under 1 atmospheric pressure (760 mm Hg)

Now let's compare the partial pressures of gases in blood to the proportions of those gases in the air. Air is a mixed gas containing 21 percent oxygen, 0.03 percent carbon dioxide, and 79 percent other gases such as nitrogen, as shown in Figure 2-3. However, the human body does not use nitrogen at all, and the amount of carbon dioxide in the body is negligible. Therefore, the only thing we need to know here is the partial pressure of oxygen.

So what is the partial pressure of oxygen in the body? It depends on whether we're talking about oxygen in veins or arteries. The partial pressure of oxygen in arteries is denoted by  $P_{aO_2}$ , and the partial pressure of carbon dioxide in arteries is denoted by  $P_{aCO_2}$ . In veins, these are denoted by  $P_{vO_2}$  and  $P_{vCO_2}$ , respectively. In this notation,  $a$  stands for arteries and  $v$  stands for veins.

Now let's refer to Figure 2-4 and look at the transitions of the partial pressures in the body. The standard value for  $P_{aO_2}$  is 100 mm Hg. For  $P_{aCO_2}$ , it's 40 mm Hg, and for  $P_{vO_2}$ , it's 40 mm Hg.

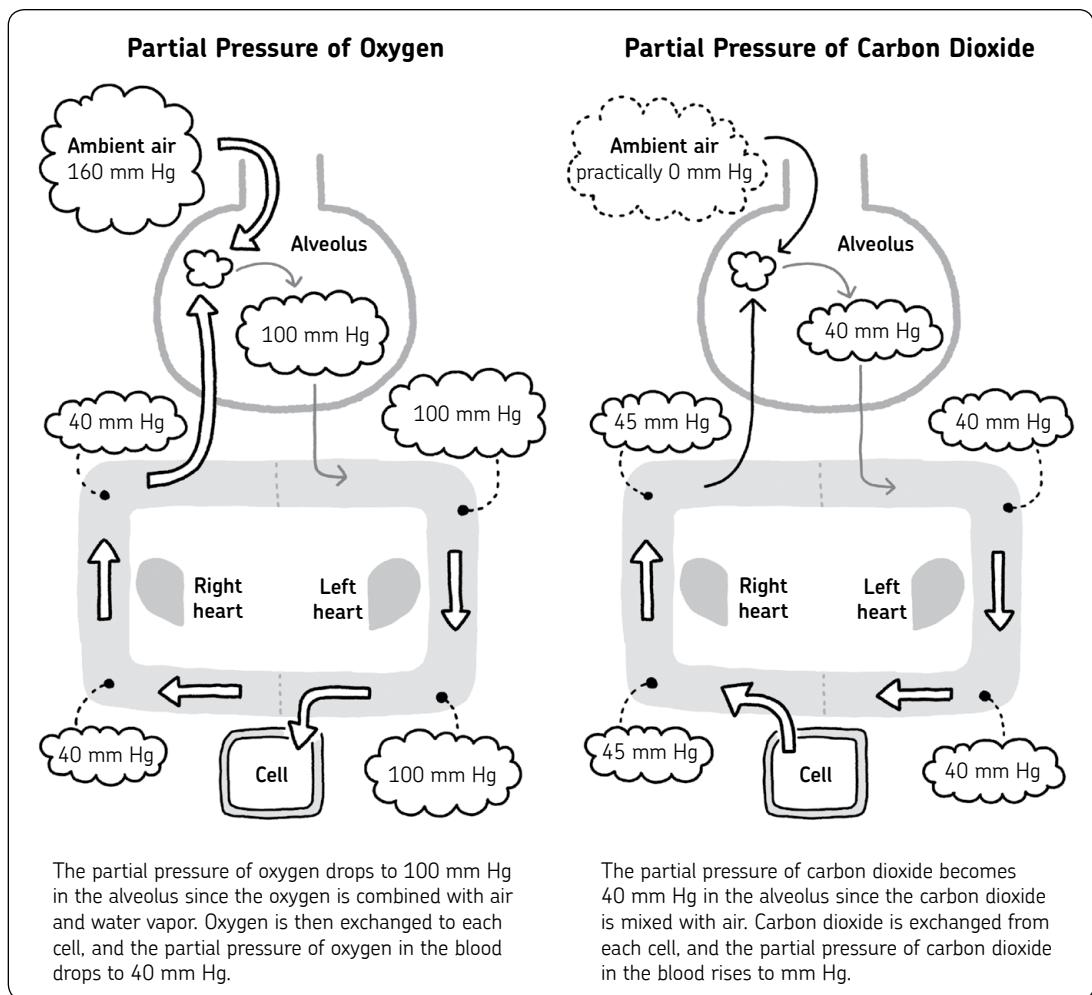


Figure 2-4: Changes in the partial pressures of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the body

### DID YOU KNOW?

Carbon dioxide is readily exchanged from blood because there is practically no CO<sub>2</sub> in ambient air, so diffusion occurs easily and rapidly. The release of CO<sub>2</sub> (and therefore a decrease in P<sub>a</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>) is intimately related to pH in the body (see page 51).



## ACIDOSIS AND ALKALOSIS



pH is a measure of a liquid's acidity or alkalinity. Like any other liquid, blood also has a pH, and its value changes due to respiration. Actually, the partial pressures of gases hold the key to understanding how respiration affects the body's pH. If the pH level of the blood exceeds a standard value, it will cause problems in the body. So how does the body regulate this value?

A pH of 7 is neutral. As the number decreases, a liquid becomes more acidic, and as the number increases, a liquid becomes more alkaline. The pH of the human body is approximately 7.4, which means the body is slightly alkaline. This pH is maintained at a nearly constant value. The mechanism that maintains a constant pH state within the body is called *homeostasis*.

If a problem occurs in certain bodily functions, the pH level may exceed the standard value range. The condition in which the pH level tends to be more acidic than the standard value is called acidosis, and the condition in which the pH level tends to be more strongly alkaline is called alkalosis.



Since a pH of 7 is neutral, is a body pH of 7.1 in a state of alkalosis?



No, no. Since acidosis and alkalosis are both relative to the standard value of pH 7.4, a pH of 7.1 is tending towards the acidic side. Therefore, that would be a case of acidosis (even though the pH level is still overall slightly alkaline).

Figure 2-5 shows acidosis and alkalosis relative to the body's pH. If bodily pH falls below 6.8 or rises above 7.8, there is a risk of death. However, since the body naturally is slightly alkaline, its pH rarely drops below 7 to become truly acidic.

So how do acidosis and alkalosis occur? The pH of the body can change based on the level of P<sub>a</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>—the two are closely related. When P<sub>a</sub>CO<sub>2</sub> is high, more acid is created in the body, and acidosis can occur. Conversely, when P<sub>a</sub>CO<sub>2</sub> is low, acid levels in the body decrease, and alkalosis can occur. Why does acid increase as P<sub>a</sub>CO<sub>2</sub> increases? This is because the dissolution of carbon dioxide in water produces H<sup>+</sup> ions, which make things more acidic.

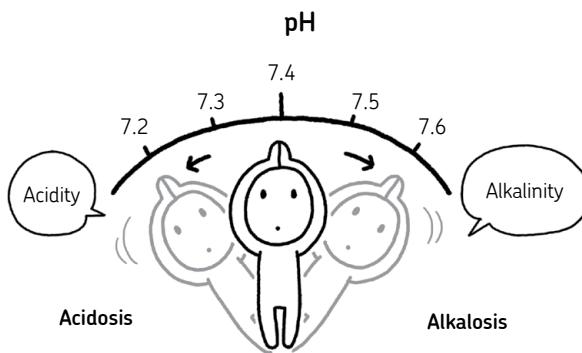


Figure 2-5: Acidosis occurs when the body's pH tends to be acidic, and alkalosis when its pH tends to be alkaline.



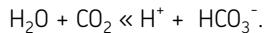
Carbon dioxide dissolves in water . . . ?



Well, think of a carbonated beverage. The carbonation of a carbonated beverage is just carbon dioxide dissolved in water.

### DID YOU KNOW?

This is the chemical equation to describe how carbon dioxide dissolves in water within the body:



If the concentration of this hydrogen ion ( $\text{H}^+$ ) increases in an aqueous solution (such as blood), the pH will tend toward the acidic side.

Incomplete respiration (or *hypoventilation*) results in too much carbon dioxide in the body. More carbon dioxide creates a more acidic environment, which can in turn cause acidosis.

*Hyperventilation* is a condition in which ventilation is excessive. Since it causes a state in which a lot of carbon dioxide is being expelled, the  $\text{PaCO}_2$  level will decrease, thereby causing the pH of the body to become more alkaline. Acidosis and alkalosis can also be caused by metabolic abnormalities (see “ATP and the Citric Acid Cycle” on page 74).



## HOW THE LUNGS WORK



Now let's take a look at the lungs. Pulmonary function testing measures the amount of air you can inhale and exhale and the amount of force you need to exert to do this. The results are represented in a graph called a *spirogram* (like the one in Figure 2-6) that shows the volume of air at different stages of inspiration or expiration. The initial small periodic curve indicates the interval when the person is breathing normally. The peaks are locations when inspiration ends (resting inspiratory volume), and the troughs are locations when expiration ends (resting expiratory volume). The difference between these levels is the resting tidal volume.

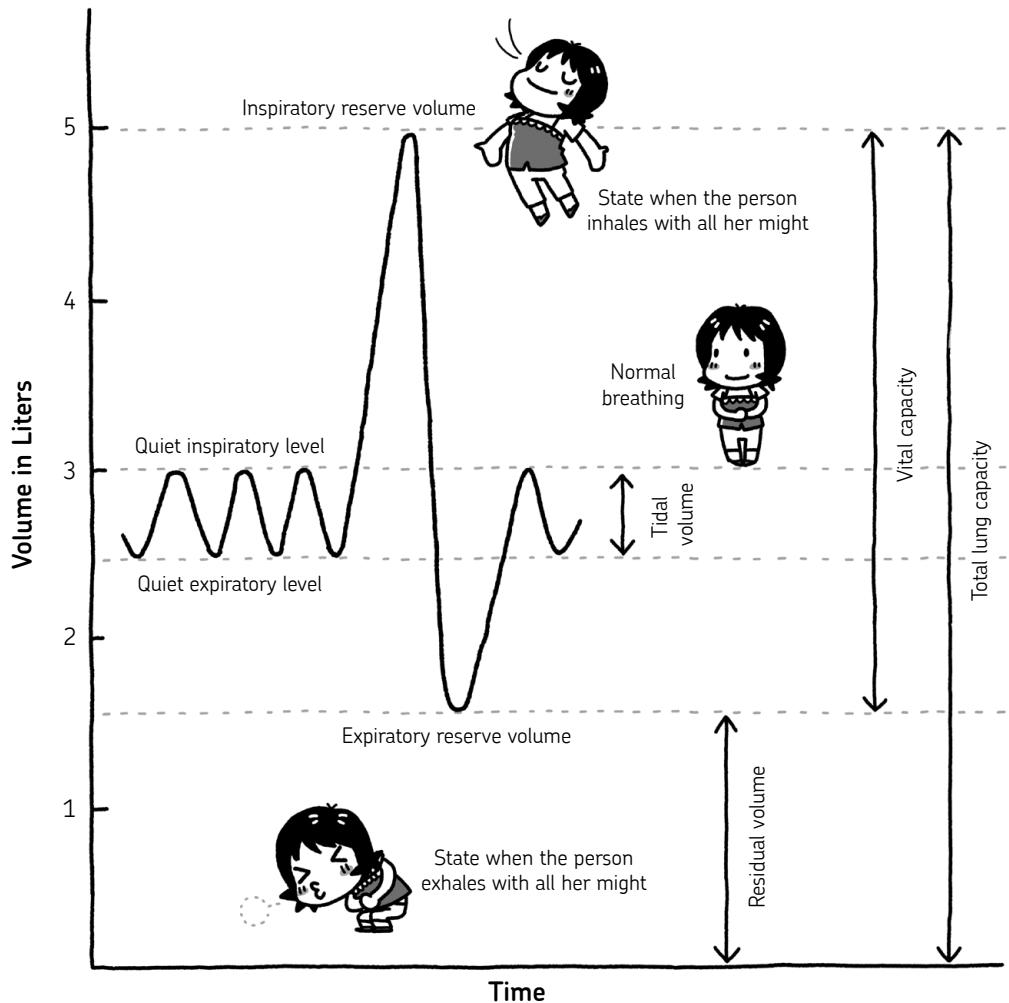


Figure 2-6: Understanding the output of a spirogram

Following this, you see a marked peak and trough. The highest peak (where the person inhaled with all her might) is the inspiratory reserve volume, and the deepest trough (where the person exhaled with all her might) is the expiratory reserve volume. As shown in Figure 2-6, the *vital capacity* is the difference in volume between maximum inhalation and complete exhalation.

We must not forget *residual volume* here. Even if a person exhales with all her might, since the lungs do not become completely flat and the trachea and bronchial tubes also do not flatten out, a fixed volume of air remains in those locations. This volume is called the residual volume.

The sum of the residual volume and vital capacity, which is the entire capacity of the lungs, is called the total lung capacity:

$$\text{Total Lung Capacity} = \text{Vital Capacity} + \text{Residual Volume}$$



My vital capacity is 3500 milliliters. That's a lot, isn't it?



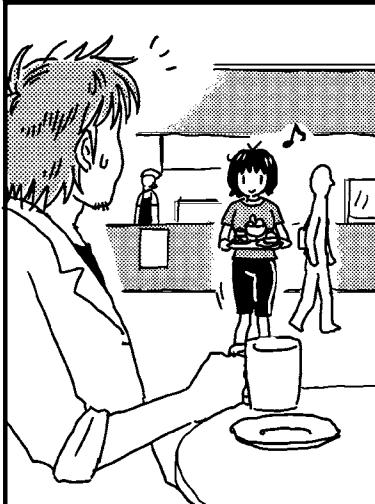
You're right. The standard for a woman is 2000 to 3000 milliliters. Your number reflects your training as a marathon runner. The vital capacity for a man is approximately 3000 to 4000 milliliters. Vital capacity tends to be greater for people who have a larger physique.



# 3

## THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

DIGESTION, METABOLISM, AND  
THE MULTI-TALENTED LIVER



YOU KNOW THAT  
THE WINNER OF  
THE MARATHON  
RACE...

GETS FREE  
DESSERTS FOR A  
WHOLE YEAR!

IS THAT WHY  
YOU'RE TRAINING  
SO HARD?

YUP.

YOU'VE GOT TO  
WORK JUST AS HARD  
FOR THE MAKEUP  
EXAM, TOO, YOU  
KNOW.

HE HE HE

SPEAKING OF  
WHICH, WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
PHYSIOLOGICALLY  
WHEN WE SAY,  
"THERE'S ALWAYS  
ROOM FOR  
DESSERT"?

OH,  
THAT'S A  
GREAT  
QUESTION!

WELL, SINCE  
YOU BROUGHT IT  
UP, SHOULD WE  
TALK ABOUT THE  
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM?

YES,  
I'M READY  
TO LEARN!

## THE ALIMENTARY CANAL

OKAY, HERE  
WE GO.

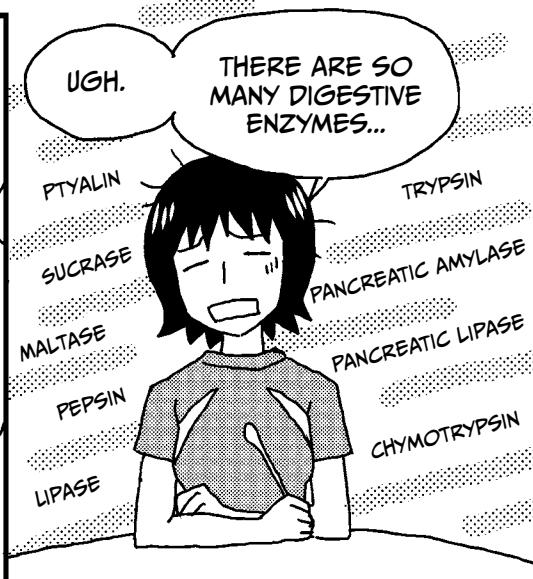
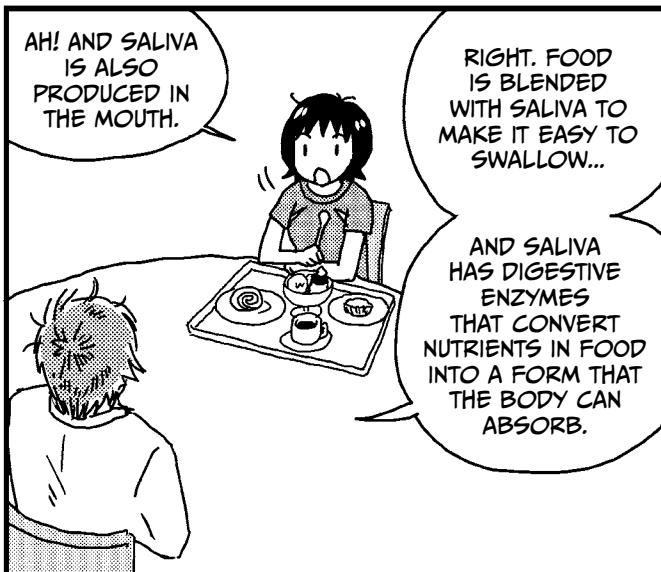
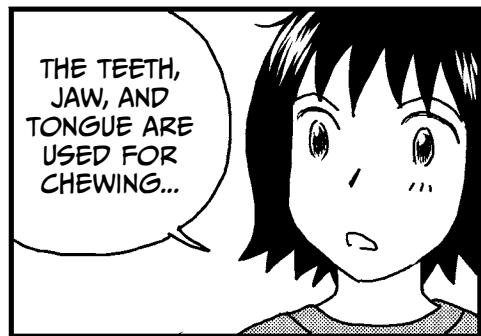
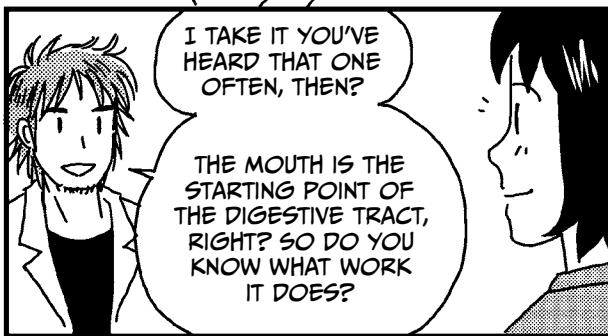
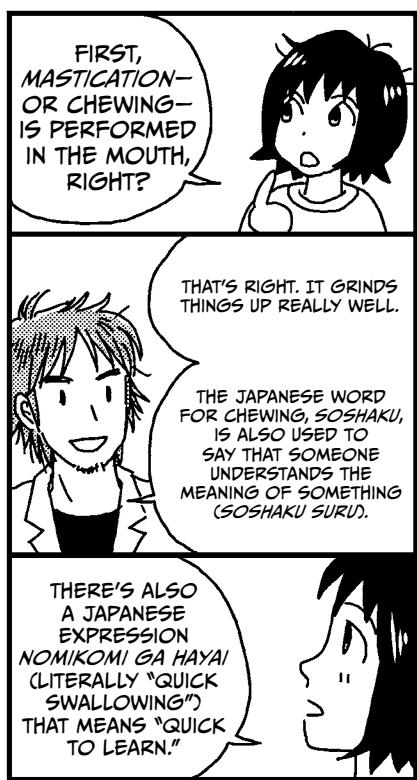
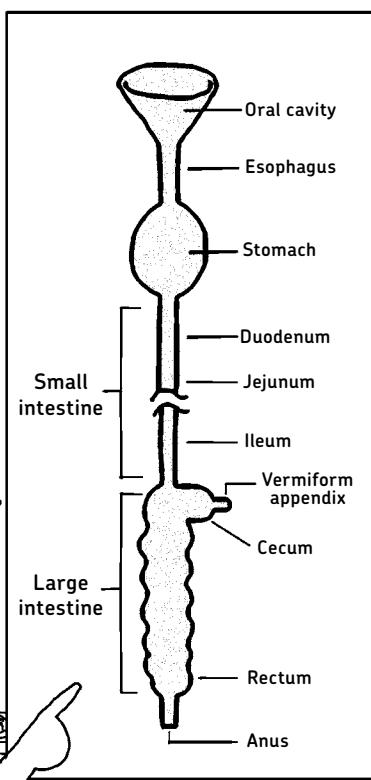
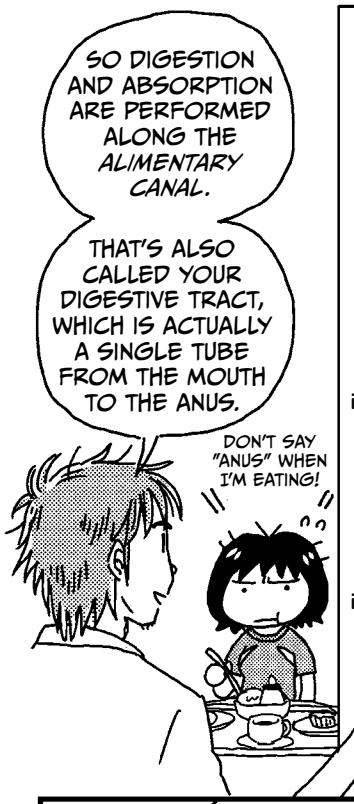
FIRST, CAN  
YOU GIVE  
A SIMPLE  
DESCRIPTION  
OF DIGESTION  
AND  
ABSORPTION?

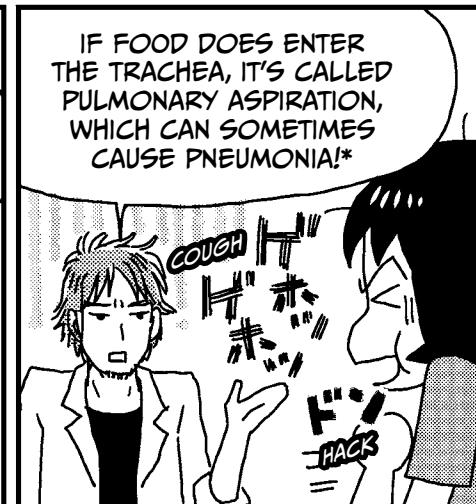
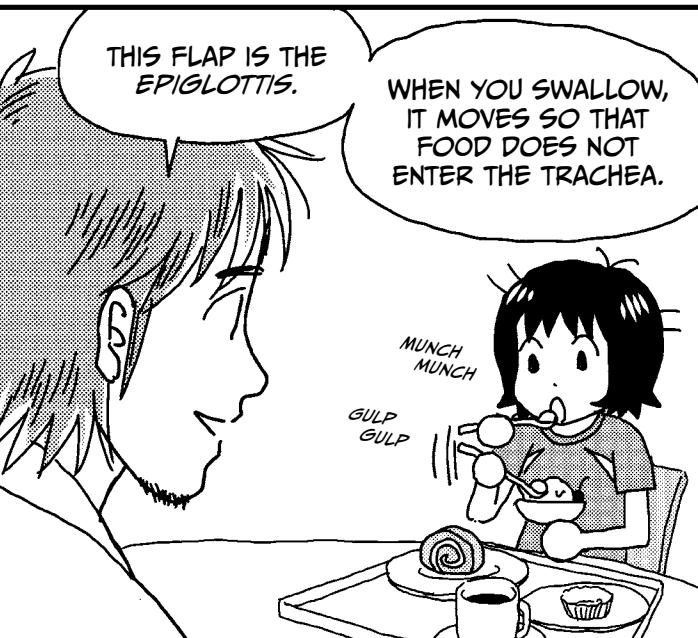
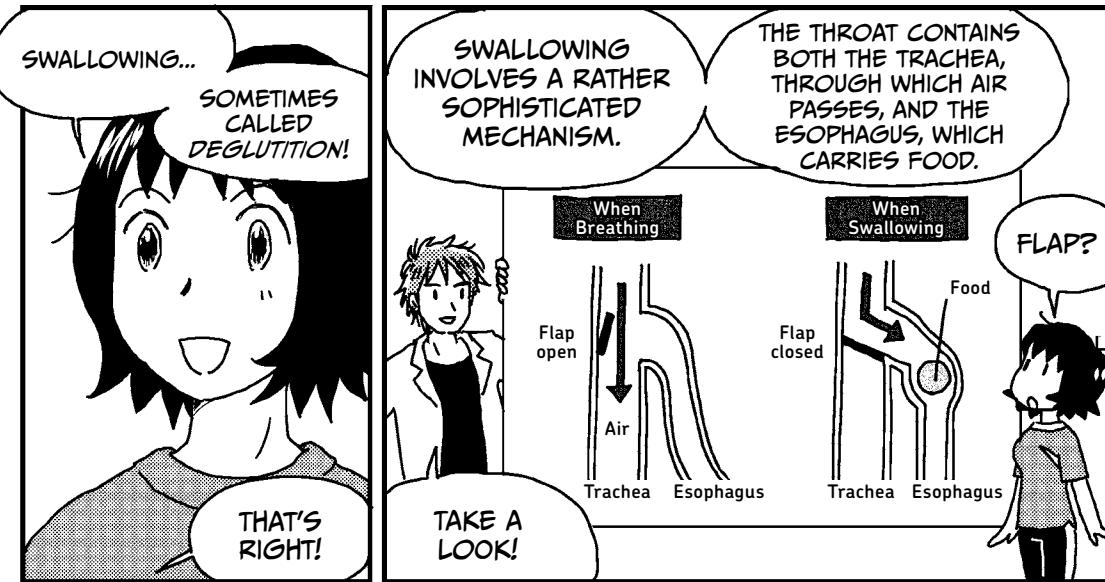
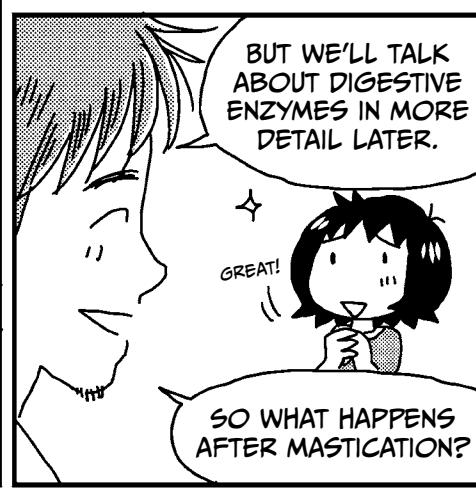
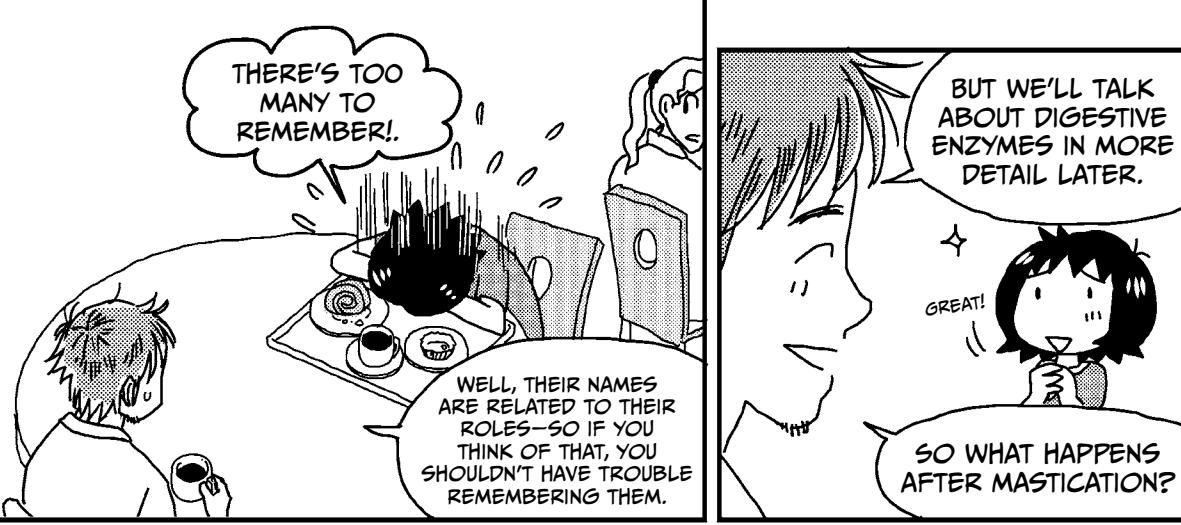
DIGESTION IS THE  
BREAKDOWN OF FOOD  
INTO A FORM THAT  
ENABLES THE NUTRIENTS  
IT CONTAINS TO BE  
ABSORBED.

ABSORPTION  
HAPPENS WHEN  
THOSE NUTRIENTS  
ARE TAKEN INTO  
THE BODY.

THAT'S THE  
BASICS.

RIGHT!





\* ASPIRATING FOOD CAN CAUSE LUNG INJURY BECAUSE  
FOOD CARRIES THE GASTRIC ACID AND BACTERIA  
FOUND IN THE DIGESTIVE TRACT.

## THE ESOPHAGUS AND THE STOMACH

SO DO YOU KNOW HOW THE ESOPHAGUS MOVES CHEWED-UP FOOD TO THE STOMACH?

WE'VE CHANGED TOPICS, HAVEN'T WE?

WHAT DOES IT DO...?

OH, I KNOW!

IT'S CALLED PERISTALSIS.

YOU REMEMBERED. THAT'S AWESOME!!

WE'LL EXPLAIN PERISTALTIC MOTION MORE A LITTLE LATER (ON PAGE 62).

AWW.  
WELL, OKAY.  
HMM...FOOD MOVES FROM THE ESOPHAGUS TO THE STOMACH, RIGHT?

THE STOMACH'S POWERFUL MUSCLES CHURN UP TO 2 TO 3 LITERS OF FOOD TO AID DIGESTION.

IT'S SOOO AMAZING!!!

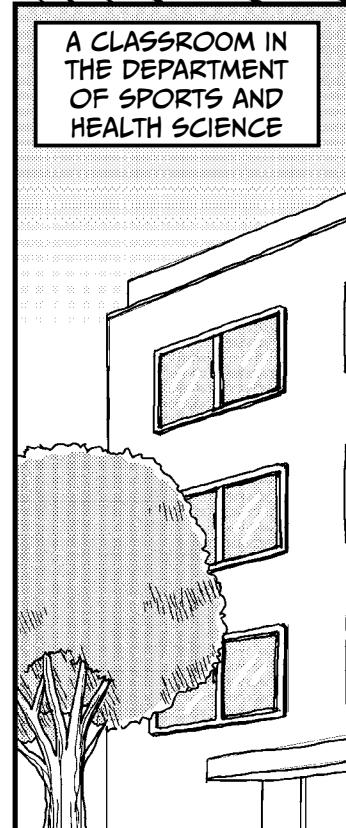
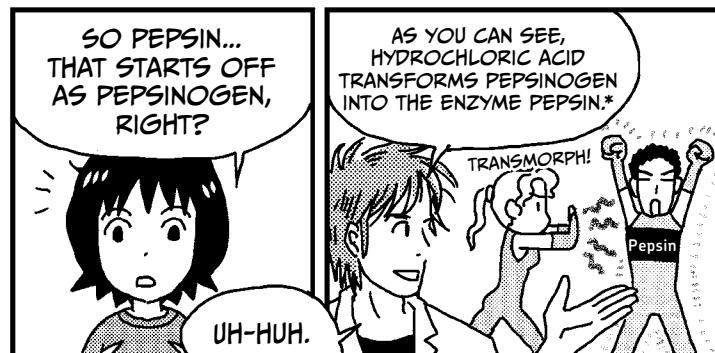
DREAMY~

YOU THINK THAT DISSOLVING FOOD IN STOMACH ACID IS AMAZING?

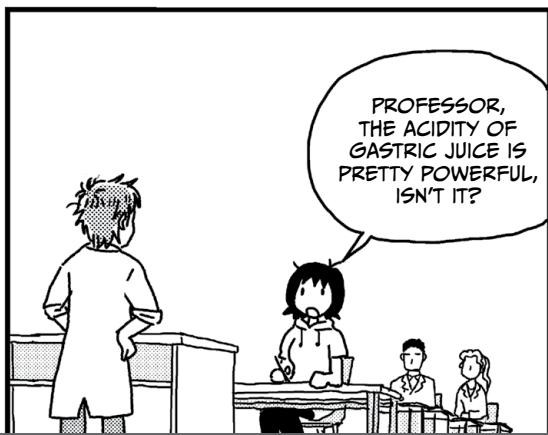
WHAT?!  
YOU'RE NOT EXCITED BY THE COMBINATION OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID, PEPSIN, AND MUCUS?!

EXCITED...?  
UH...  
DISAPPROVAL

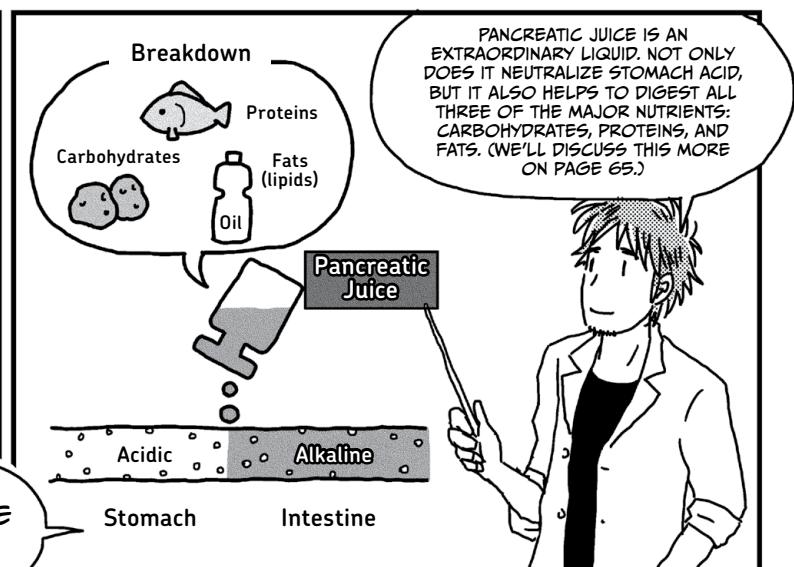
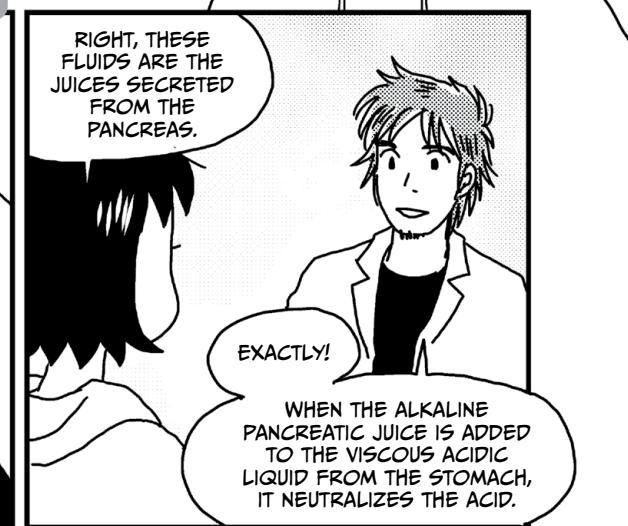
BANG  
AREN'T THEY JUST THE COMPONENTS OF GASTRIC JUICE?



\* PEPSINOGEN IS A ZYMOGEN, OR A PROENZYME (AN INACTIVE PRECURSOR TO AN ENZYME). PEPSINOGEN IS ACTIVATED AND TRANSFORMED INTO PEPSIN BY HYDROCHLORIC ACID.



## THE DUODENUM AND THE PANCREAS



## THE SMALL AND LARGE INTESTINES

WOW, DIGESTION SEEMS LIKE AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK.

NEXT, THOSE NUTRIENTS ARE FINALLY ABSORBED, AREN'T THEY?

OH!

INDEED!

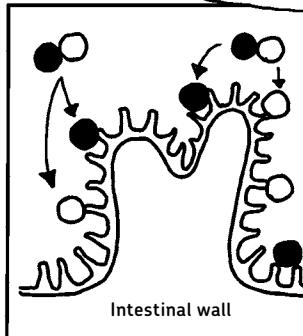
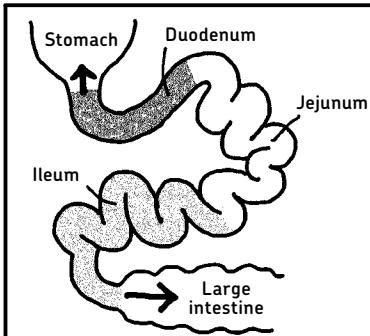
DO YOU KNOW WHICH ORGAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT WORK?

THE SMALL INTESTINE!

MORE SPECIFICALLY, IT'S THE DUODENUM, JEJUNUM, AND ILEUM!

TOGETHER, THESE MAKE UP THE SMALL INTESTINE...

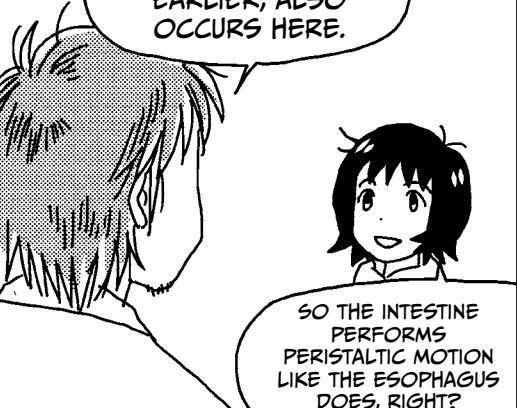
AND ABSORPTION OF DIGESTED FOOD OCCURS IN THE CELLULAR SURFACE OF THE MUCUS MEMBRANE OF THE SMALL INTESTINE.



PERISTALTIC MOTION, WHICH WE SKIPPED EARLIER, ALSO OCCURS HERE.

YES, PERISTALSIS IS AN EARTHWORM-LIKE MOVEMENT.

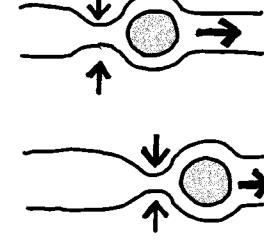
IT MOVES THINGS ALONG TOWARD THE ANUS.



SO THE INTESTINE PERFORMS PERISTALTIC MOTION LIKE THE ESOPHAGUS DOES, RIGHT?



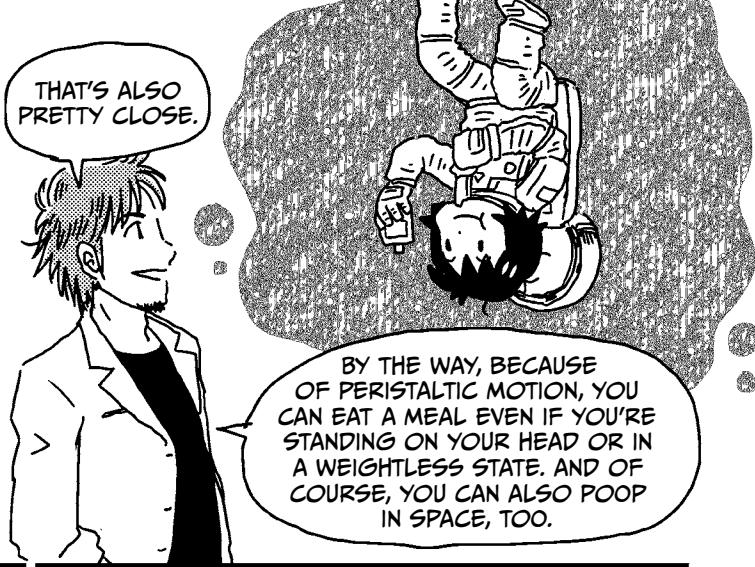
Constrictions behind the lump cause it to move forward.



PERSONALLY, I THINK OF TOOTHPASTE BEING SQUEEZED OUT OF A TUBE.



THAT'S ALSO PRETTY CLOSE.



WOW. WE'VE COVERED ALL OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.



YOU FORGOT POOPING!



MOISTURE IS ABSORBED BY THE LARGE INTESTINE.

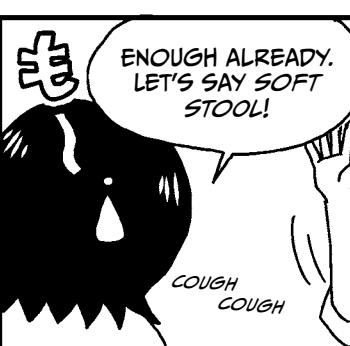
SO POOP WITH A PROPER CONSISTENCY CAN BE FORMED.

SHE'S NO BETTER THAN HE IS...

IF YOUR LARGE INTESTINE DOESN'T ABSORB MOISTURE PROPERLY, YOUR POOP WILL BE RUNNY.



ENOUGH ALREADY.  
LET'S SAY SOFT STOOL!



OK OK...

WE'RE ALMOST AT THE END OF THE LINE:  
THE ANUS.

HERE,  
ONCE AGAIN, OUR  
OLD FRIEND...

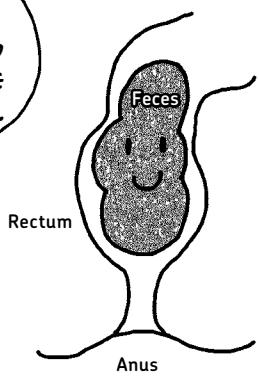
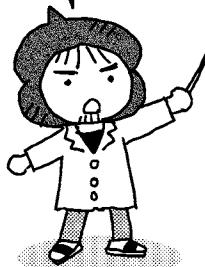
PERISTALTIC  
MOTION  
CAUSES  
DEFECATION!

RIGHT.

IN MORE DETAIL,

THE FECES ARRIVES  
AT THE RECTUM,  
WHICH IS ONE STEP  
BEFORE THE ANUS.

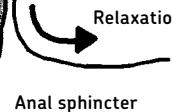
FECES  
GRADUALLY  
ACCUMULATE AND  
APPLY PRESSURE  
ON THE RECTUM...



Defecation

Abdominal pressure  
(voluntary movement)

Contraction  
of the rectum  
(involuntary  
movement)



...AND A  
REFLEX\*  
CAUSES THE  
RECTUM TO  
BEGIN TO  
CONTRACT.



SO...

THE INTERIOR ANAL  
SPHINCTER LOOSENS  
AT THE SAME TIME AS  
THAT CONTRACTION.

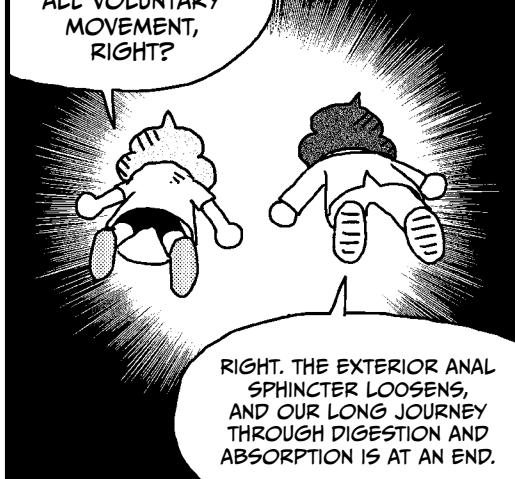
THIS IS AN  
INVOLUNTARY  
MOVEMENT.

THEN YOU RUSH TO  
THE TOILET AND  
STRAIN.

IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
YOU APPLY  
ABDOMINAL  
PRESSURE.

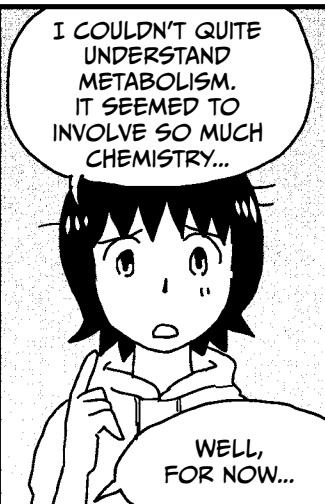
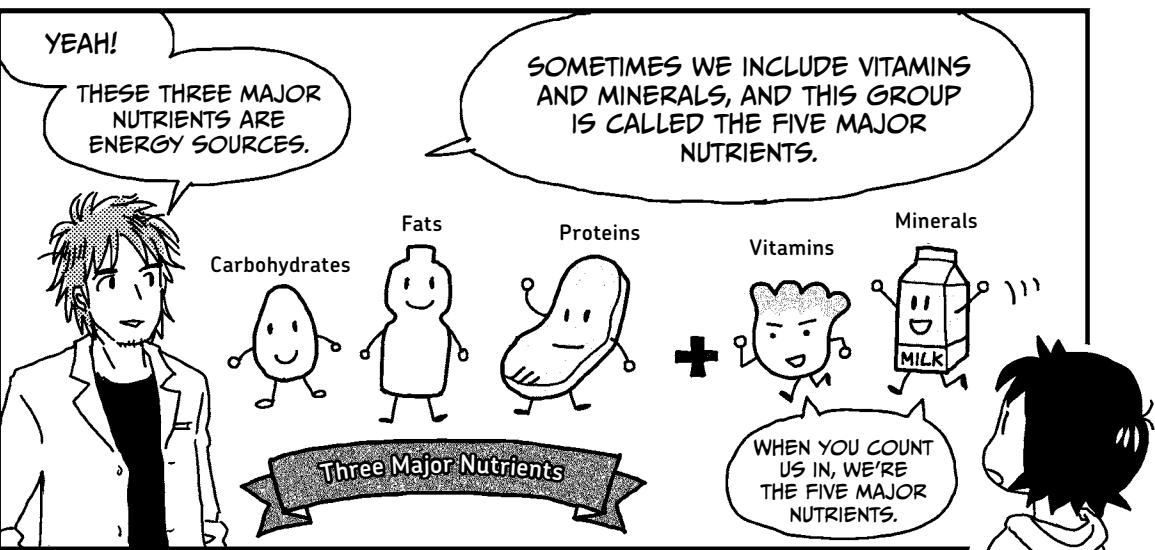
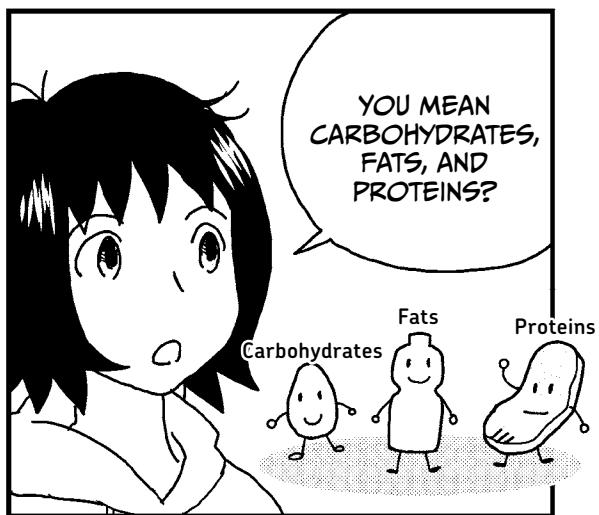
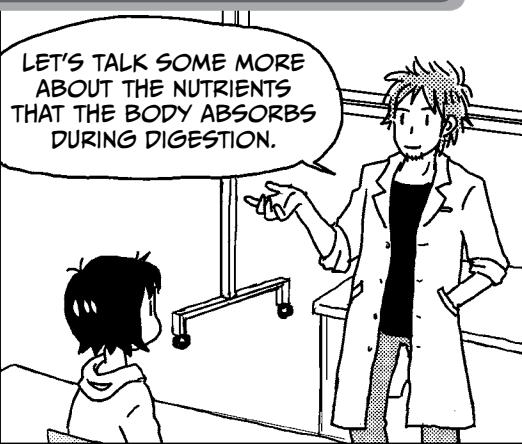


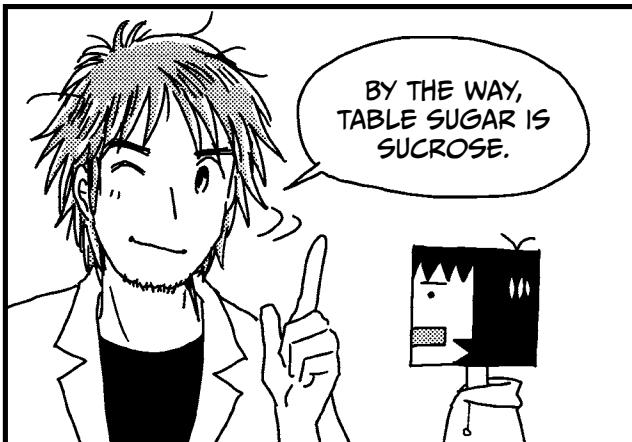
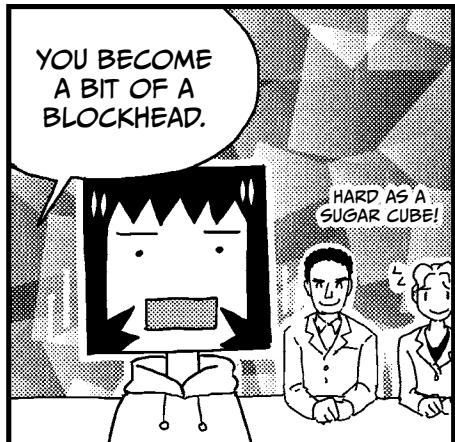
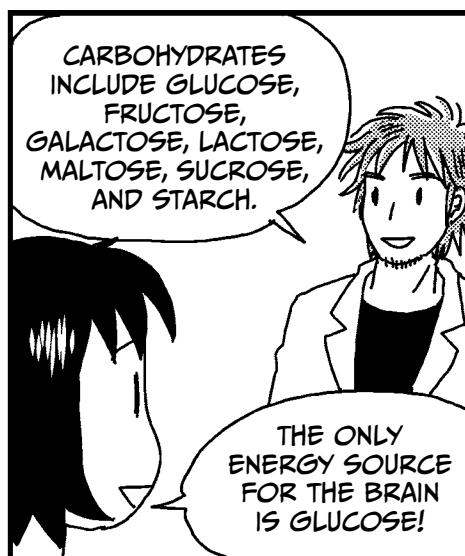
FROM THIS  
POINT ON, IT'S  
ALL VOLUNTARY  
MOVEMENT,  
RIGHT?



RIGHT. THE EXTERIOR ANAL  
SPHINCTER LOOSENS,  
AND OUR LONG JOURNEY  
THROUGH DIGESTION AND  
ABSORPTION IS AT AN END.

## THE THREE MAJOR NUTRIENTS





## Types of Carbohydrates

LET'S LOOK AT ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF CARBOHYDRATES.

### Monosaccharides\*



Glucose



Fructose



Galactose

### Disaccharides\*\*



Sucrose

Glucose + fructose



Lactose

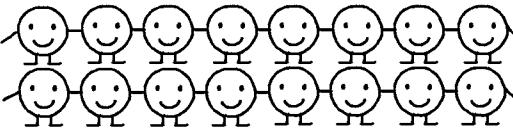
Glucose + galactose



Maltose

Glucose × 2

### Polysaccharides\*\*\*



Starch

\* MONOSACCHARIDES: MOST EASILY ABSORBED BY THE BODY

\*\* DISACCHARIDES: A FORM IN WHICH TWO MONOSACCHARIDES ARE JOINED TOGETHER

\*\*\* POLYSACCHARIDES: A FORM IN WHICH MANY TYPES OF MONOSACCHARIDES ARE JOINED TOGETHER

THEY ARE  
CLASSIFIED  
LIKE THIS.

SO DIGESTION PROCEEDS IN STAGES. FOR EXAMPLE, STARCH IS BROKEN DOWN INTO MALTOSE.

AND THEN EVERYTHING IS EVENTUALLY USED INSIDE THE BODY AS GLUCOSE.

SO CANDIES, PASTRIES, AND OTHER SWEETS ARE ABSORBED QUICKLY BY THE BODY SINCE LESS EFFORT IS NEEDED TO BREAK THEM DOWN, RIGHT?

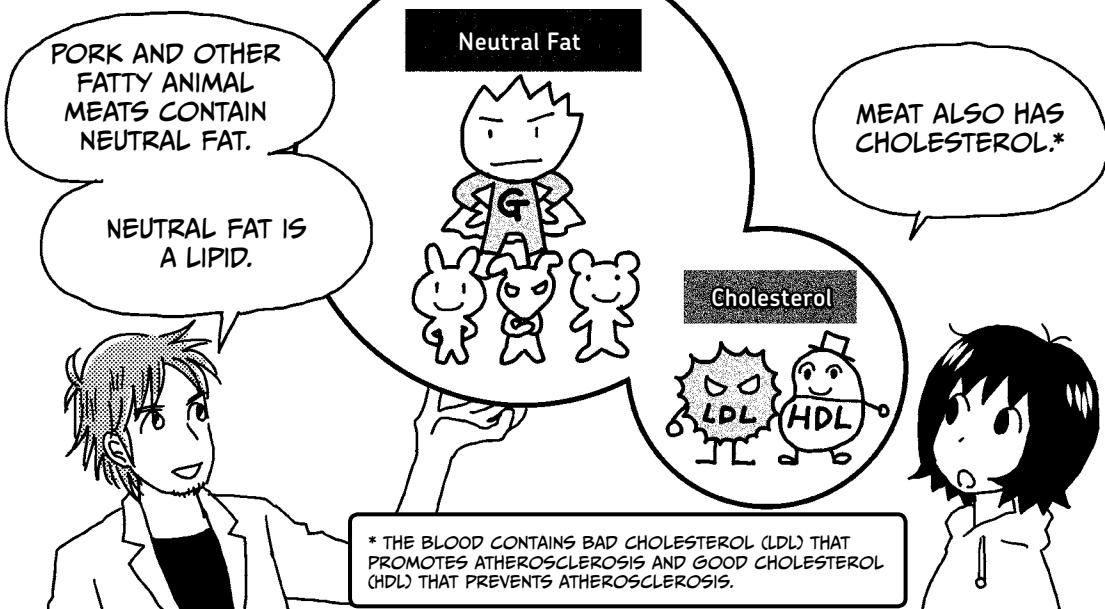
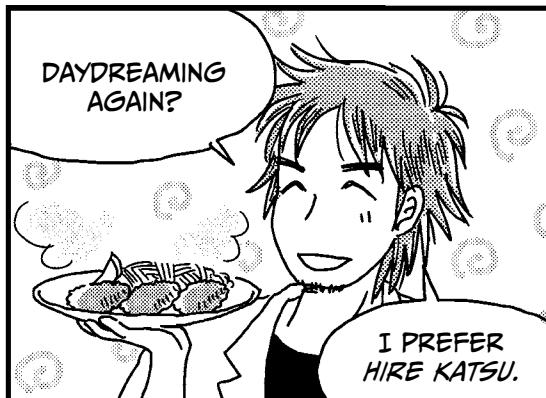
CRUMBLE



YOU GOT THAT PART PERFECTLY...



LET'S MOVE ON TO FATS.

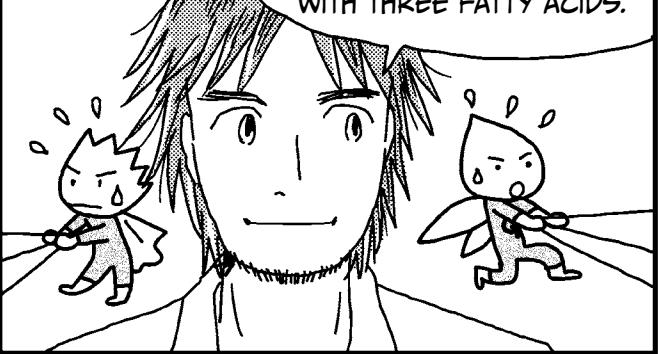


\*\* ESSENTIAL FATTY ACIDS ARE UNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS THAT THE BODY CANNOT PRODUCE BY ITSELF, SO MUST ABSORB FROM FOOD.

LET'S LOOK AT  
THE STRUCTURE  
OF NEUTRAL FAT.



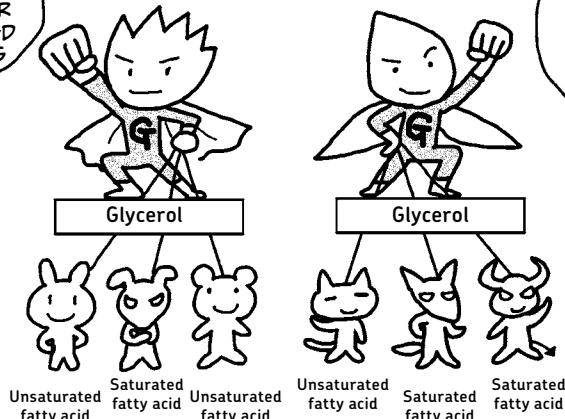
TRIGLYCERIDES, A  
COMMON TYPE OF  
NEUTRAL FAT, CONSIST  
OF GLYCEROL COMBINED  
WITH THREE FATTY ACIDS.



FATTY ACIDS ARE  
CLASSIFIED AS EITHER  
SATURATED OR UNSATURATED.  
THESE ARE JOINED TOGETHER  
WITH GLYCEROL (ALSO CALLED  
GLYCERIN) TO MAKE VARIOUS  
COMBINATIONS.



Neutral Fat



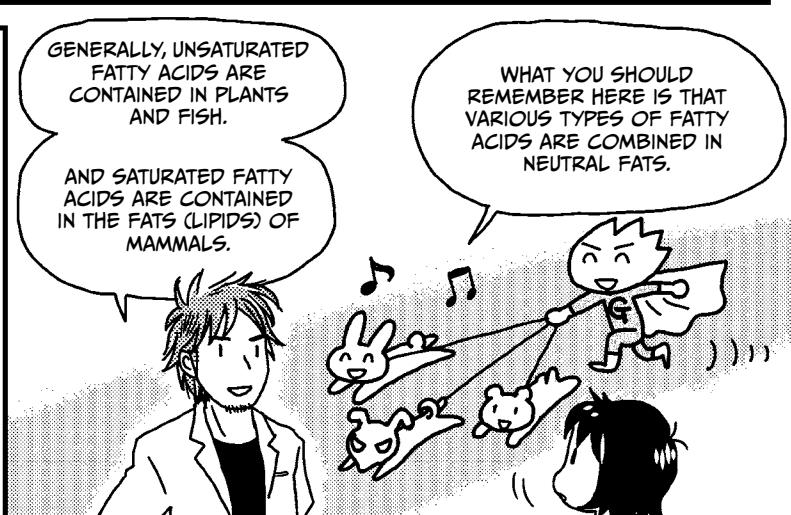
THIS  
COMBINATION  
IS CALLED A  
TRIGLYCERIDE,  
RIGHT?\*



THAT'S RIGHT.

GENERALLY, UNSATURATED  
FATTY ACIDS ARE  
CONTAINED IN PLANTS  
AND FISH.  
  
AND SATURATED FATTY  
ACIDS ARE CONTAINED  
IN THE FATS (LIPIDS)  
OF MAMMALS.

WHAT YOU SHOULD  
REMEMBER HERE IS THAT  
VARIOUS TYPES OF FATTY  
ACIDS ARE COMBINED IN  
NEUTRAL FATS.



\* NEUTRAL FATS ARE CLASSIFIED BY FATTY ACIDS THAT FORM THEM, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER OF CARBON ATOMS AND THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THEM. EVEN BEYOND TRIGLYCERIDES, THERE CAN ALSO BE MONO- AND DIGLYCERIDES.

LAST, WE'RE GOING TO COVER PROTEINS, RIGHT?

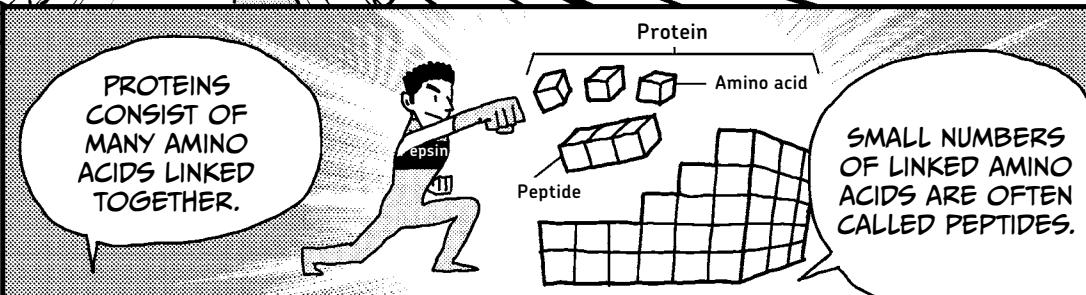


RIGHT.

PROTEINS ARE IMPORTANT NUTRIENTS FOR THE STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS OF THE BODY, SUCH AS MUSCLE, BONE, SKIN, AND BLOOD.



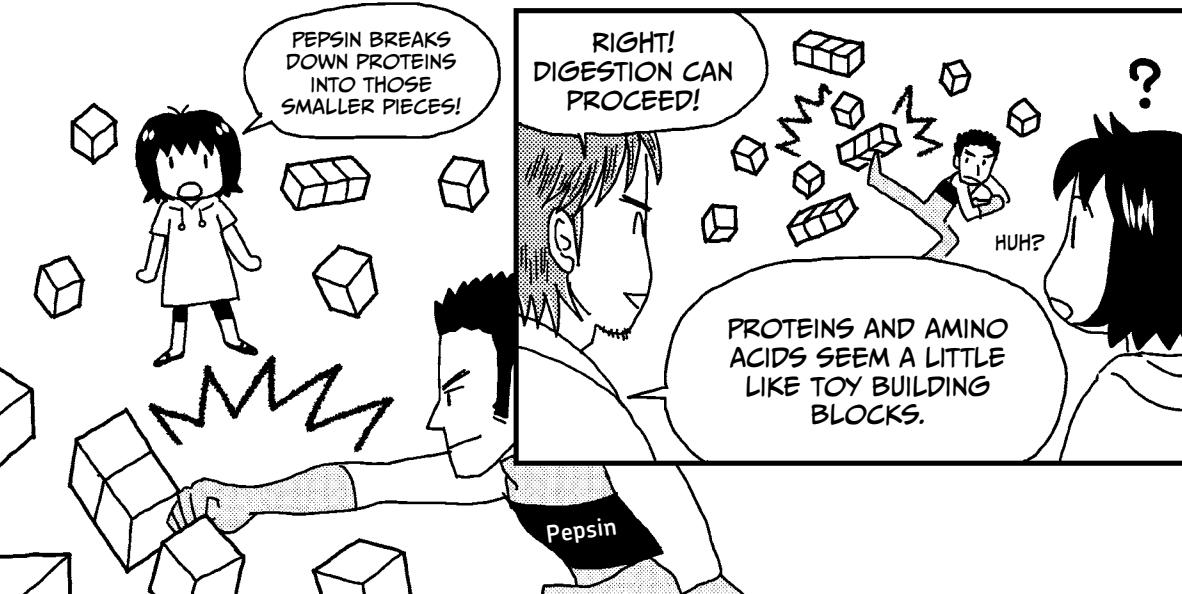
OF COURSE, THEY CAN ALSO BE USED FOR ENERGY.



PEPSIN BREAKS DOWN PROTEINS INTO THOSE SMALLER PIECES!

RIGHT! DIGESTION CAN PROCEED!

PROTEINS AND AMINO ACIDS SEEM A LITTLE LIKE TOY BUILDING BLOCKS.



FIRST, LET'S IMAGINE THIS BUILDING MADE OF BLOCKS IS A PROTEIN.



MANY DIFFERENT BLOCKS ARE JOINED TOGETHER.

THE FIRST PART OF THE PROCESS OF METABOLISM (CALLED CATABOLISM) CONSISTS OF BREAKING THIS BUILDING INTO PIECES.



WHEN THIS OCCURS DURING DIGESTION, WE END UP WITH INDIVIDUAL PARTS.

SO EACH INDIVIDUAL BLOCK IS AN AMINO ACID?



Amino acid

THIS BLOCK IS DIFFERENT.

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU NOTICED THAT.

THAT IS AN ESSENTIAL AMINO ACID.

LIKE THE ESSENTIAL FATTY ACIDS WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER...

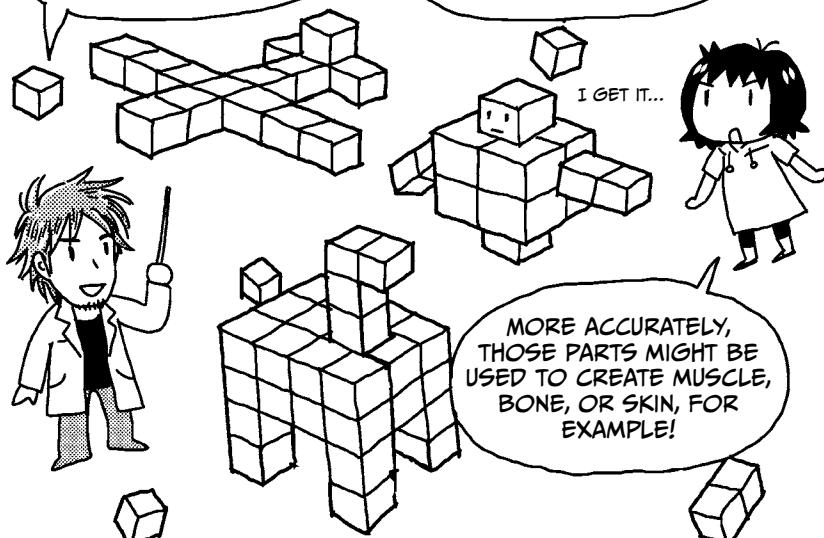
WE CAN'T CREATE THEM OURSELVES, SO WE ABSORB THEM FROM FOOD, RIGHT?



THAT'S RIGHT!

THE SECOND PHASE OF METABOLISM IS CALLED ANABOLISM. IT'S THE REASSEMBLY OF THE INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS (AMINO ACIDS) INTO MORE COMPLEX PROTEINS.

WHEN ANABOLISM OCCURS, NEW STRUCTURES ARE CREATED THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION (LIKE MAKING AN AIRPLANE OR ROBOT FROM A PILE OF BLOCKS!).



MORE ACCURATELY, THOSE PARTS MIGHT BE USED TO CREATE MUSCLE, BONE, OR SKIN, FOR EXAMPLE!

# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM!

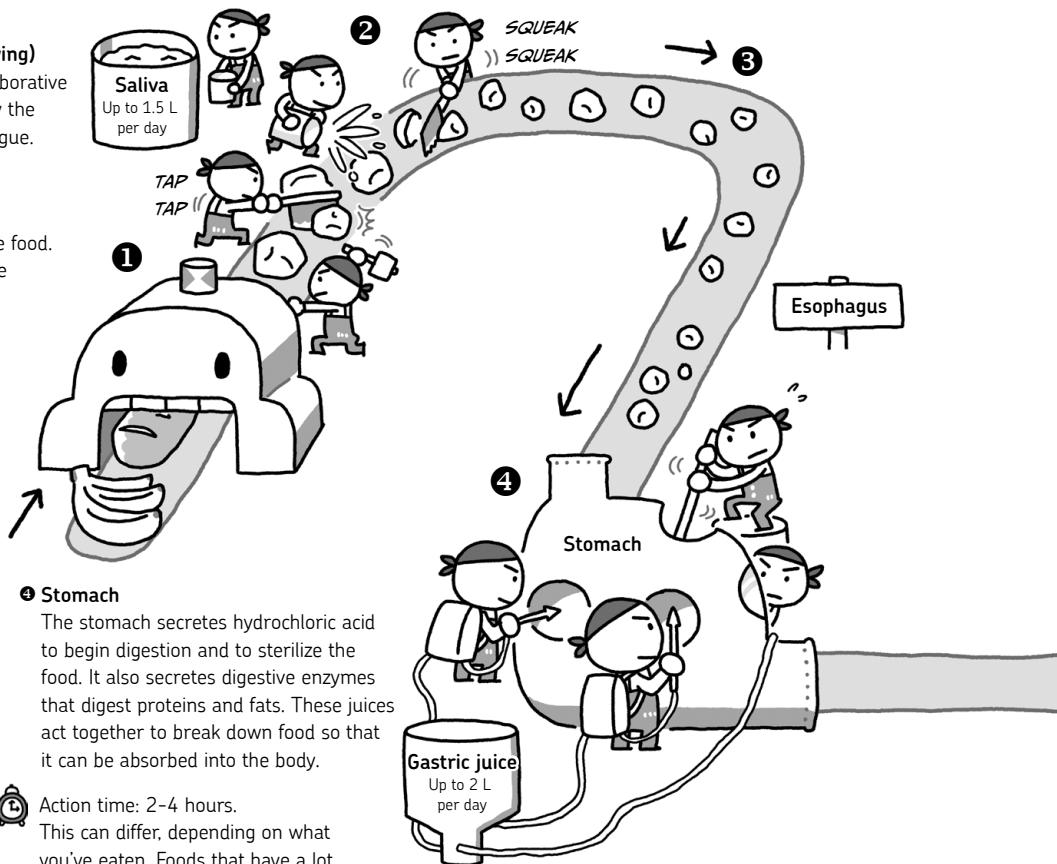


Let's look at all of the digestive organs again! These include the organs of the alimentary canal (or digestive tract) from the mouth to the anus—as well as the liver, gallbladder, and pancreas. If we liken the sequence of processes included in digestion and absorption to a factory, it would look a little like this.

## THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM IN ACTION

- ❶ **Mastication (chewing)**  
Mastication is collaborative work performed by the teeth, jaw, and tongue.

- ❷ **Saliva**  
Saliva moistens the food. It contains digestive enzymes.



- ❸ **Deglutition (swallowing)**  
The swallowing of food that was ground down into finer pieces in the mouth is called *deglutition*. Food passes through the esophagus and enters the stomach.

- ❹ **Stomach**  
Action time: 2-4 hours.  
This can differ, depending on what you've eaten. Foods that have a lot of protein take longer to digest.

### ⑥ Duodenum

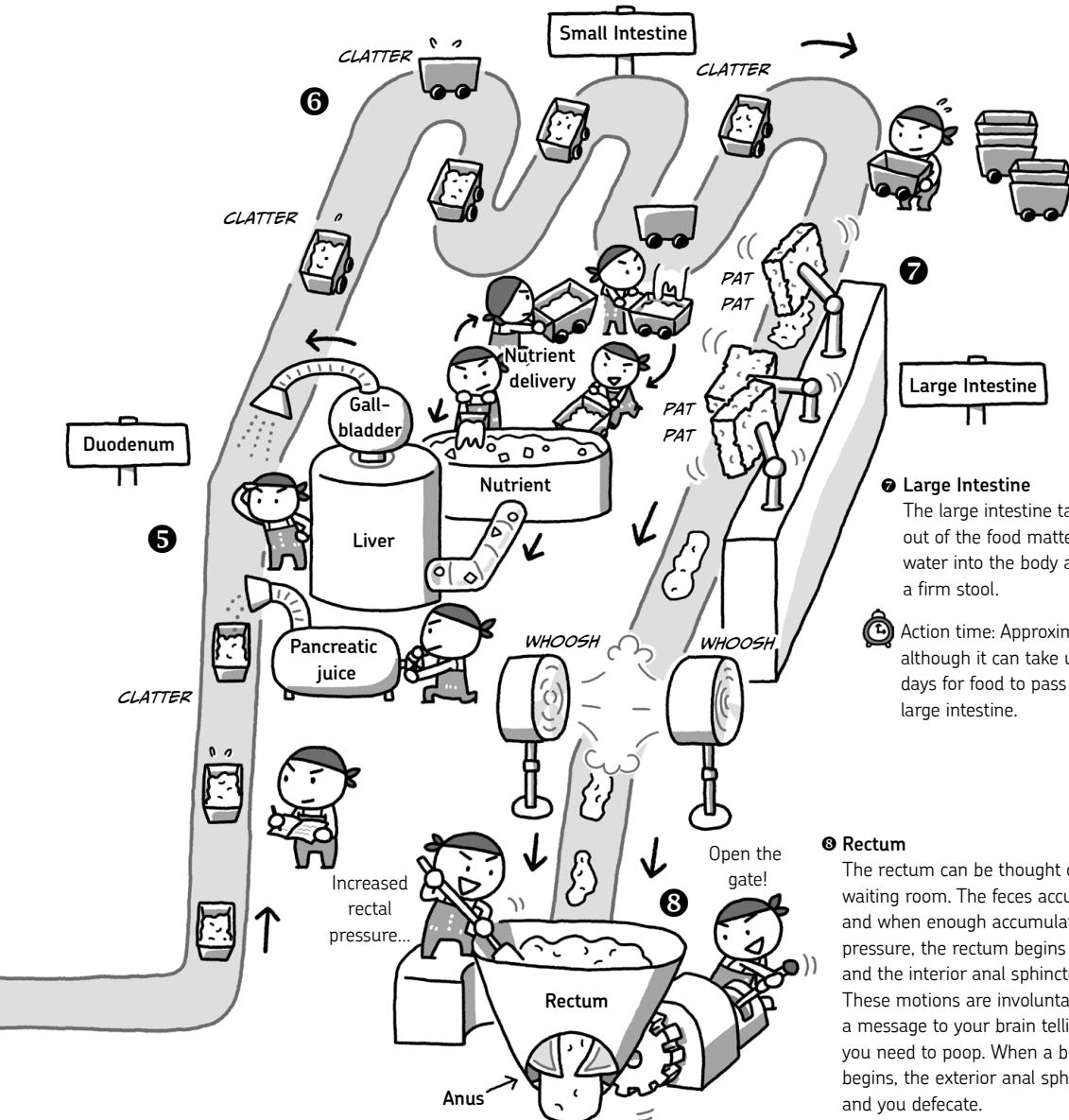
Alkaline digestive fluids are mixed into the chyme from your stomach to neutralize the stomach acids before they enter the intestines. Pancreatic juice secreted from the pancreas also contains digestive enzymes to break down proteins and fats. Bile secreted from the gallbladder helps digest lipids (see Figure 3-7 on page 80).

### ⑥ Small Intestine

Digestive fluids that carry out the final stage of digestion are secreted, and nutrients are steadily absorbed at the same time from nutrient absorption cells that line the walls of the small intestine. The length of the small intestine is approximately 6 to 8 meters in an adult.



Action time: Approximately 3 to 5 hours



### ⑧ Rectum

The rectum can be thought of as a feces waiting room. The feces accumulate there, and when enough accumulate to exert pressure, the rectum begins to contract and the interior anal sphincter loosens. These motions are involuntary and send a message to your brain telling you that you need to poop. When a bowel movement begins, the exterior anal sphincter opens, and you defecate.

## ATP AND THE CITRIC ACID CYCLE



Our bodies get energy from the foods and nutrients we take in. Our bodies synthesize or decompose such food and nutrients, and the reactions that carry out these processes are called *metabolism*. In this section, we will explain metabolism in a little more detail.

First, let's look at the process that produces energy by burning nutrients that are absorbed. Although we say "burning," the energy source is not being set on fire inside the body. Instead, the energy is produced by a chemical reaction called *oxidation*.

Oxidation extracts energy from nutrients (carbohydrates, fats, and proteins) by using oxygen. These energy sources are oxidized to form ATP (*adenosine triphosphate*). We walk, digest, and carry out other activities using the energy that is produced by decomposing this ATP.

ATP decomposition is the energy source for all the activity that goes on inside cells, so it is performed inside every cell in the human body. The energy obtained from ATP decomposition is ultimately released as heat, as shown in Figure 3-1.

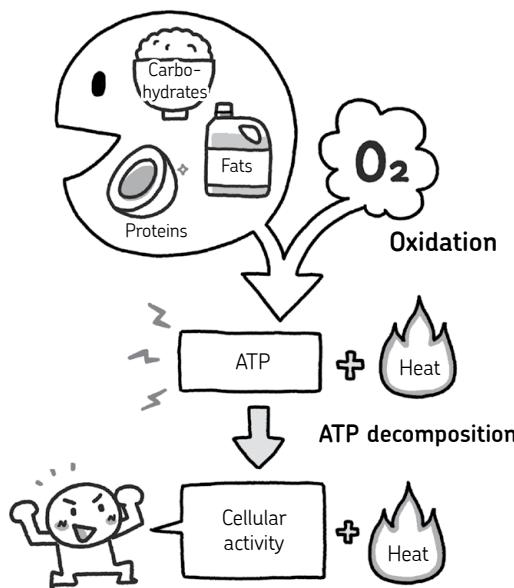


Figure 3-1: ATP decomposition



Where does ATP decomposition happen in the body?



ATP decomposition is the energy source for all the activity that goes on inside cells, so it is performed inside every cell in the human body. The energy obtained from ATP decomposition is ultimately released as heat, as shown in Figure 3-1.

The series of chemical reactions that burn nutrients to create ATP is called the *citric acid cycle* (see Figure 3-2). You don't have to remember the specific reactions in the citric acid cycle for each nutrient. For now, just remember what the entire citric acid cycle accomplishes.

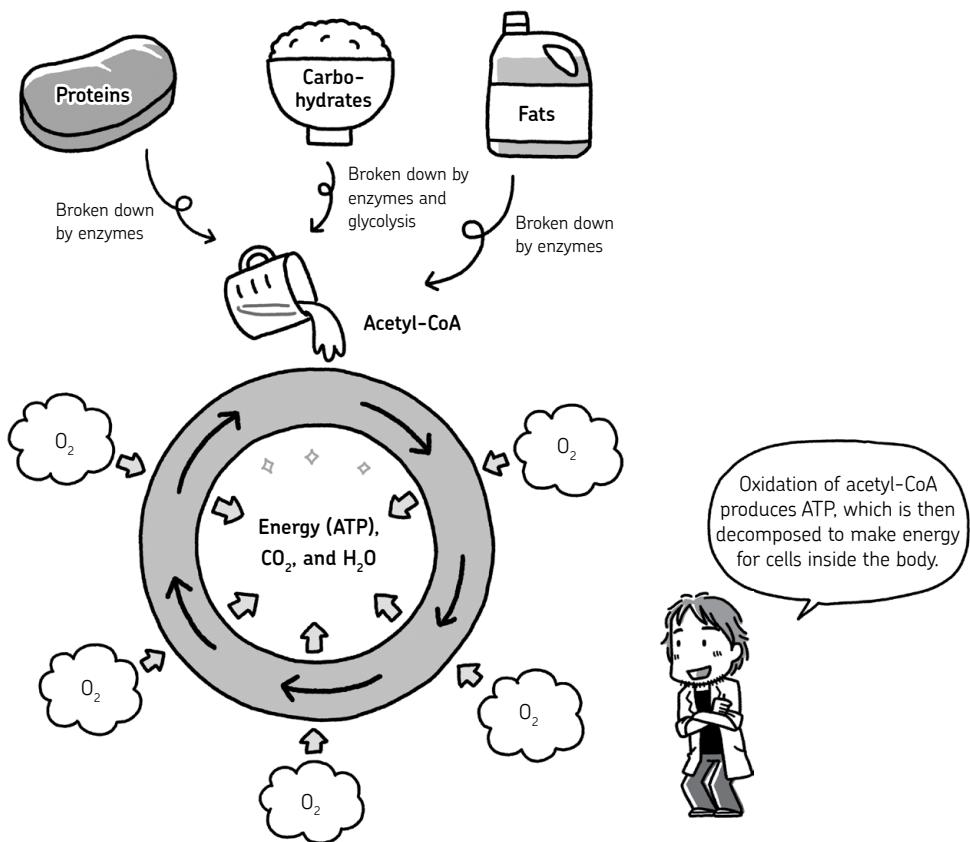


Figure 3-2: The citric acid cycle

So how does the flow of energy production occur in the citric acid cycle? First, each nutrient is broken down by enzymes. Proteins and fats are broken down into amino acids and fatty acids, which are eventually transformed into a molecule called acetyl-CoA, which then feeds into the citric acid cycle. For carbohydrates, the process is a little more complex. Carbohydrates are broken down into glucose, which is then broken down further through *glycolysis*. Glycolysis produces a small amount of energy (2 ATP per glucose molecule) and yields pyruvate, which is eventually changed into acetyl-CoA.

Once the three major nutrients are broken down into acetyl-CoA, the acetyl-CoA enters the citric acid cycle. Enzymes use oxygen to extract energy by causing a successive series of oxidation reactions. This produces high-energy molecules that are ultimately transformed into ATP through another series of reactions called the *electron transport chain*. Carbon dioxide and water are also by-products of the citric acid cycle and the electron transport chain.

This cycle is an integral part of aerobic metabolism. Eventually, the citric acid cycle and other related pathways create about 20 times more ATP than does glycolysis alone.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The citric acid cycle is also called the TCA cycle or the Krebs cycle, named after Hans Adolf Krebs, who received a Nobel Prize in medicine for his work on the subject.



## DIGESTIVE FLUIDS AND DIGESTIVE ENZYMES



We talked a bit about digestive fluids and enzymes earlier. Let's go over them in more detail now. If you check the overall picture of the digestive organs shown on page 72, it will be easier to visualize what is going on.



Different organs secrete different digestive fluids, right?



Indeed. Can you name them in order? Start with the mouth.



Well, there's saliva in the mouth, gastric juice in the stomach, pancreatic juice and bile in the duodenum, and intestinal fluids in the small intestine.



That's right. In one day you secrete around 8 liters of digestive fluids! You'd think you'd get dehydrated disgorging all that liquid, huh? Well, don't worry. The moisture that is contained in the digestive fluids is absorbed by the alimentary canal as soon as the digestive fluids are secreted. As a result, you don't get dehydrated.

Most digestive fluids contain digestive enzymes—bile is the only one that does not. But it still can be called a digestive fluid since it aids digestion, acting like soap to disperse and emulsify fats. Bile is the bitter yellow liquid that comes up when you vomit violently. If there's nothing else to throw up, bile will be discharged. Bile is formed in part from the breakdown of old red blood cells (see "The Liver's Role in Metabolism and Digestion" on page 78).

Next, let's cover digestive enzymes. Your body cannot easily absorb food in its original form. Digestive enzymes play a major role in changing that food to a state that can be absorbed as nutrients by the body.



Is that why I have to memorize them?



Don't worry. I'm going to narrow them down to just three main types of digestive enzymes. There are rules that make it easier to remember the names.

It is customary for enzyme names to end in *-ase*. The Latin name for starch is *amylum*, so the enzyme that breaks down carbohydrates is called *amylase*. *Protease* is the enzyme that breaks down protein, and *lipase* is the enzyme that breaks down fats, or lipids (see Figure 3-3).

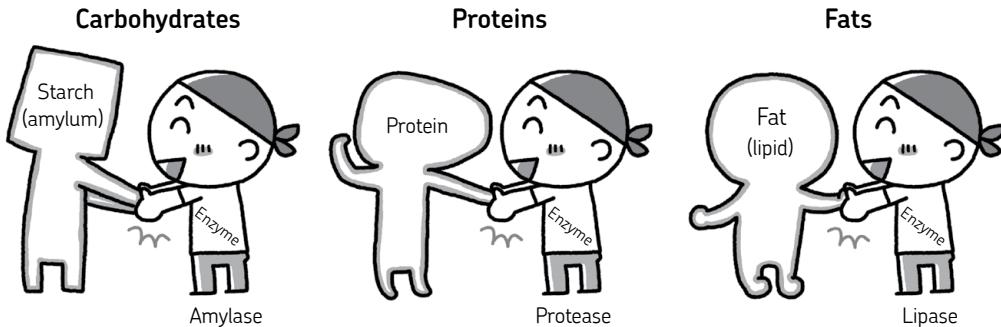


Figure 3-3: Three main types of digestive enzymes

Digestive enzymes can be broadly classified into three types in this way. Amylase and protease can also be classified further into several types. Since there are only a few important digestive enzymes, you'll be able to remember them if we organize them properly, as in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-1: MAIN DIGESTIVE ENZYMES AND THEIR EFFECTS

	<b>Enzymes for breaking down carbohydrates</b>	<b>Enzymes for breaking down proteins</b>	<b>Enzymes for breaking down fats</b>
Saliva	<i>Salivary amylase</i> starch → maltose		
Gastric juice		<i>Pepsin</i> proteins → peptides*	
Pancreatic juice	<i>Pancreatic amylase, etc.</i> starch → maltose	<i>Trypsin, chymotrypsin</i> proteins → peptides or amino acids	<i>Pancreatic lipase</i> fats (lipids) → fatty acids + glycerin
Intestines	<i>Sucrase, etc.</i> sucrose, lactose, etc. → monosaccharide	<i>Erepsin</i> proteins or peptides → amino acids	

\* Peptides are short, linked-together chains of amino acids, which have fewer molecules than proteins.



There sure are a lot, and some enzymes don't end in -ase.



If only it were that easy! Just remember that the enzymes without -ase break down proteins.

## THE LIVER'S ROLE IN METABOLISM AND DIGESTION



Finally, let's talk about the liver, which performs important work involved in digestion and metabolism. You probably know that the liver is an internal organ that's involved in a wide variety of activities—up to 500 different functions!

The liver receives blood from two kinds of blood vessels: the *hepatic arteries*, which carry arterial blood containing oxygen from the aorta, and the *portal vein*, which carries venous blood containing nutrients that were absorbed from the intestines. More than two-thirds of the liver's blood supply is from the portal vein, supplying it with about half of the oxygen the liver needs, as well as the nutrients critical for various metabolic activities.

Since the liver is involved in so many different activities, I'll explain just a few of the major activities one at a time. The function of the liver is shown in Figure 3-4.

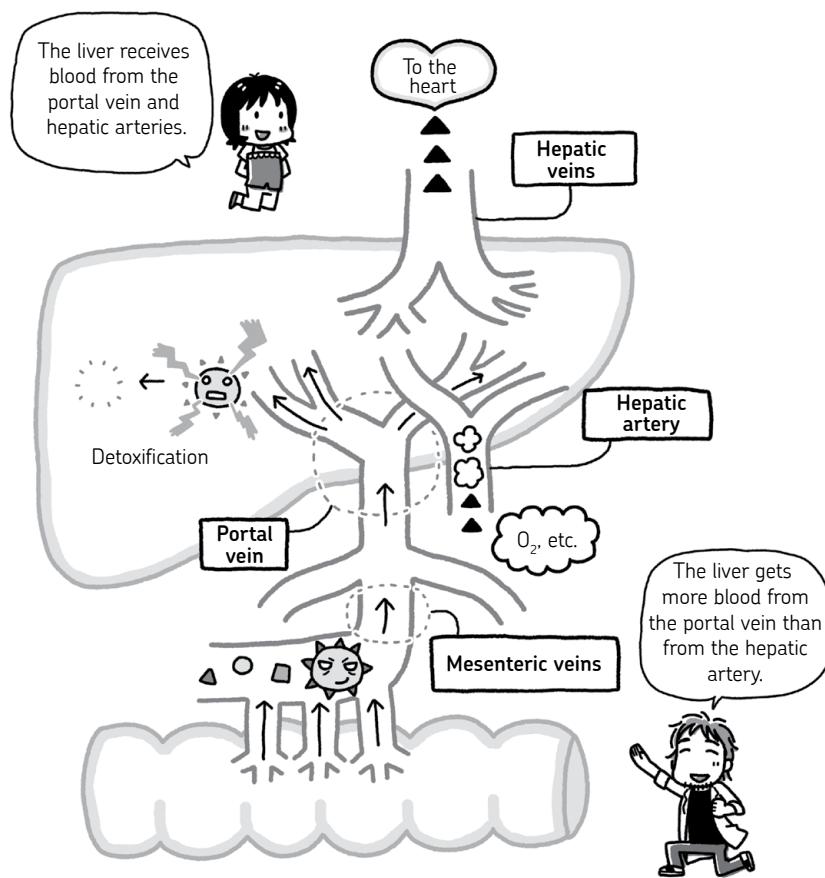


Figure 3-4: Two of the liver's major activities are detoxification and metabolism.

One job is detoxification of alcohol or other toxic substances that have entered the body. Poisons enter the body most frequently through the mouth. They are then absorbed by the alimentary canal and sent from there to the liver through the blood vessel called the portal vein.

Another job of the liver is metabolism. Nutrients taken from the alimentary canal are used as materials to synthesize or break down proteins, cholesterol, fats, and hormones (see Figure 3-5). The liver is responsible for a vast number of other crucial functions, from maintaining proper blood clotting to producing growth hormones.

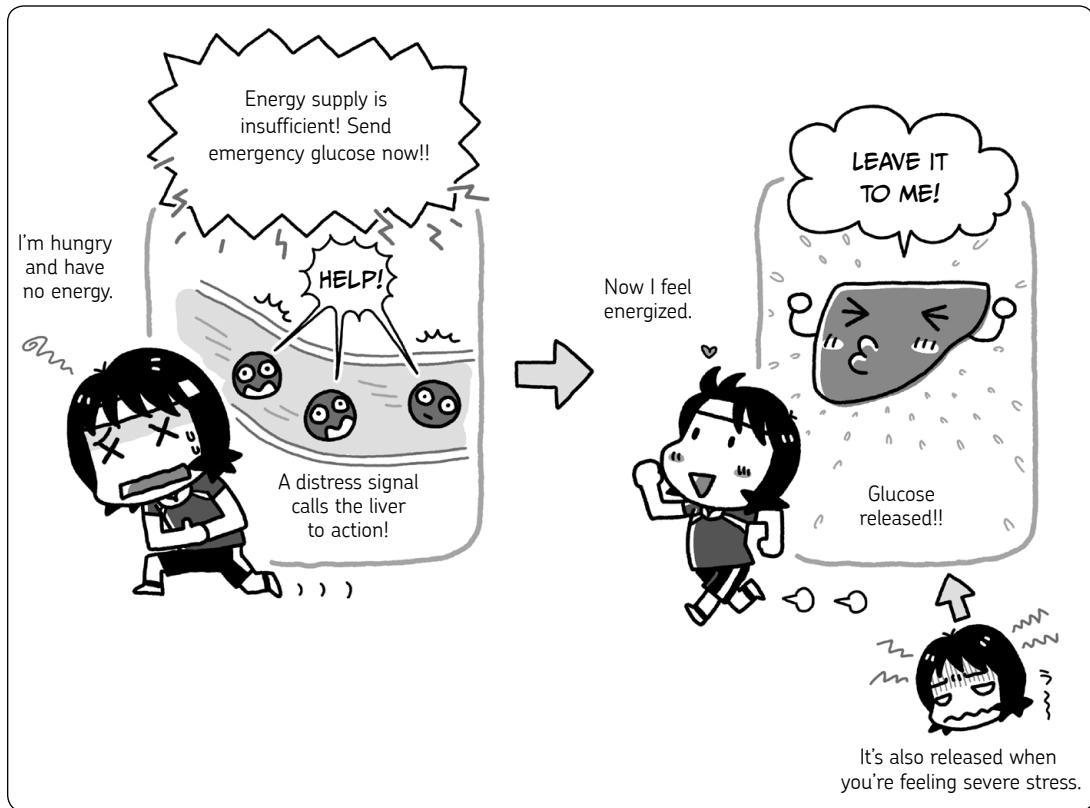
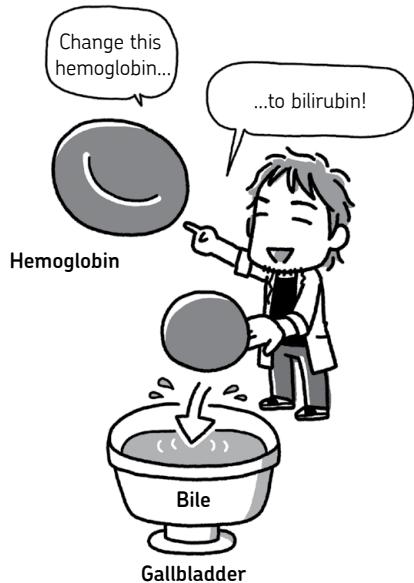


Figure 3-5: The liver releases glucose when the body needs it.

The fourth job is creating bile. The bile that is created in the liver is concentrated and stored by the gallbladder. This bile aids the action of the digestive enzymes and the absorption of fats. In other words, the liver also plays an important role in digestion. Incidentally, the yellowish color of bile comes from *bilirubin*, which is a waste product produced by the metabolism of the hemoglobin in red blood cells (see Figure 3-6; see also “Red Blood Cells” on page 112).

Just think how terrible it would be if you didn’t have a liver! You couldn’t metabolize absorbed nutrients and you couldn’t create bile. Poisons would circulate throughout the body without being detoxified, and there would be no storehouse for nutrients that are required at critical times.



*Figure 3-6: The liver breaks hemoglobin down into bilirubin to make bile, which is then stored in the gallbladder.*



The liver has so many jobs. What would happen if you lost part of your liver?

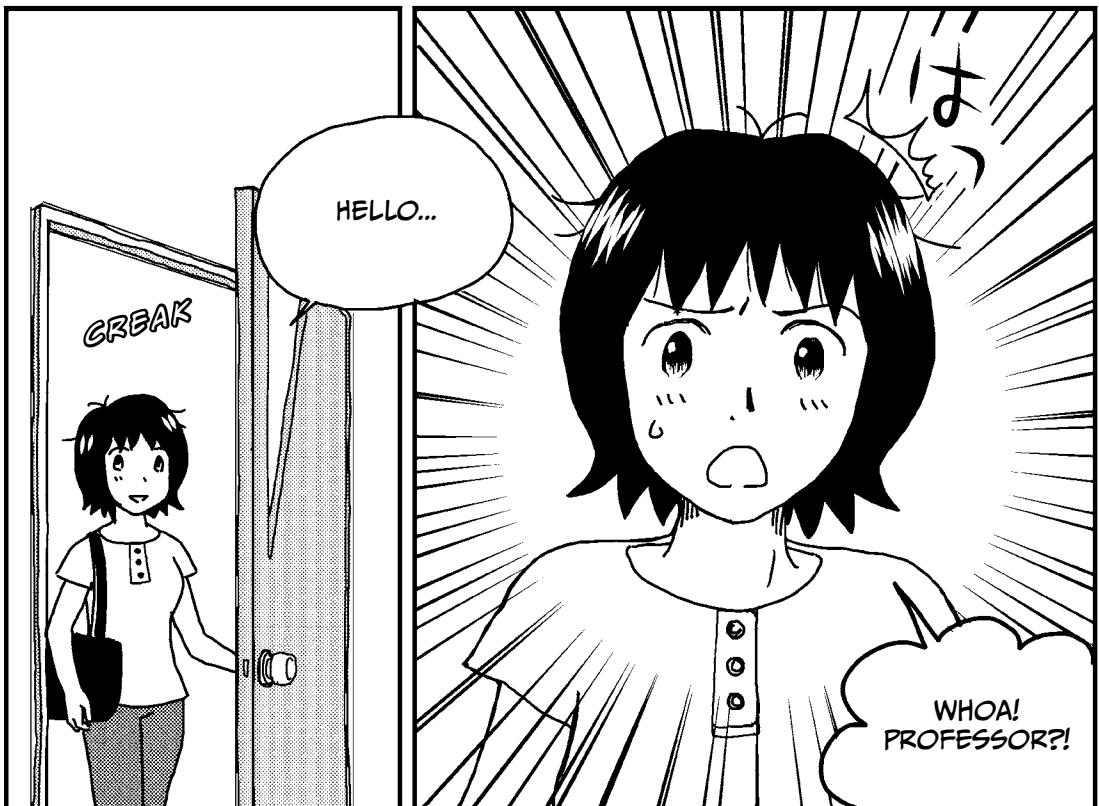


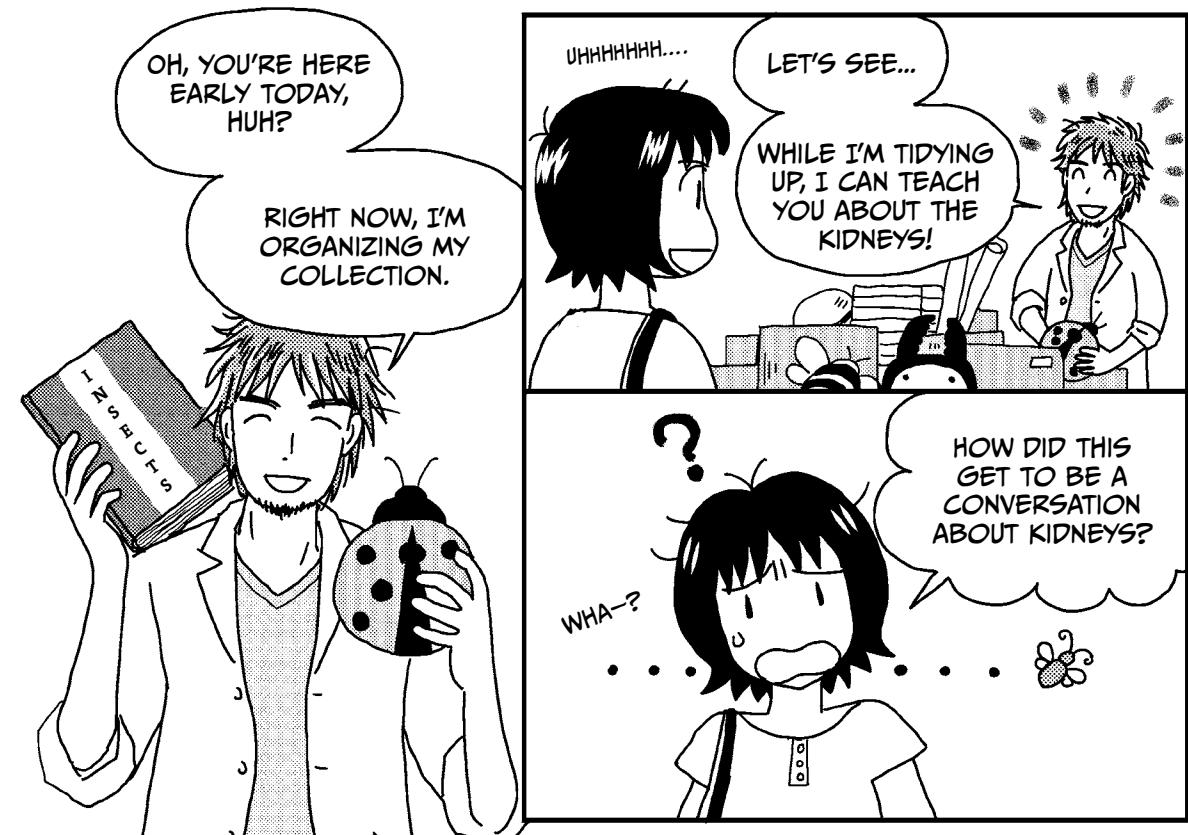
The liver has an amazing ability to regenerate. Even if a doctor removes as much as three-fourths of it during an operation, it will regenerate to its original size!

# 4

## THE KIDNEYS AND THE RENAL SYSTEM

CLEANING OUT WASTE  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY





## FILTERING THE BLOOD

I'VE PUT OFF ORGANIZING FOR TOO LONG.

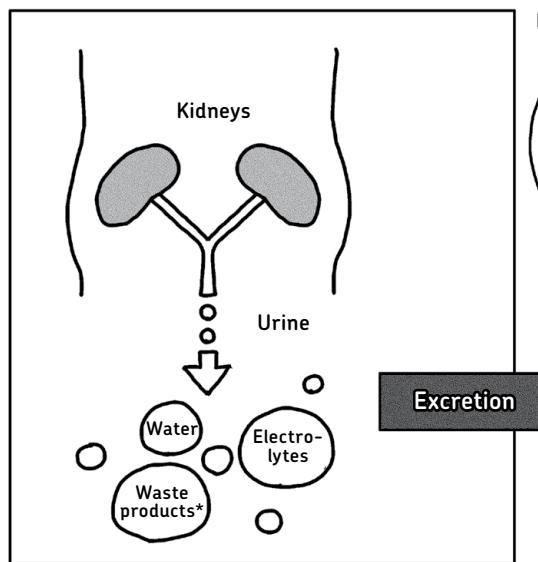
I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO GET RID OF.

LOOKS LIKE JUNK TO ME. WHY NOT JUST CHUCK IT ALL IN THE TRASH?

WASTE PRODUCTS ACCUMULATE IN A PERSON'S BODY IN THE SAME WAY.

THE KIDNEYS HELP DISPOSE OF THOSE WASTE PRODUCTS.

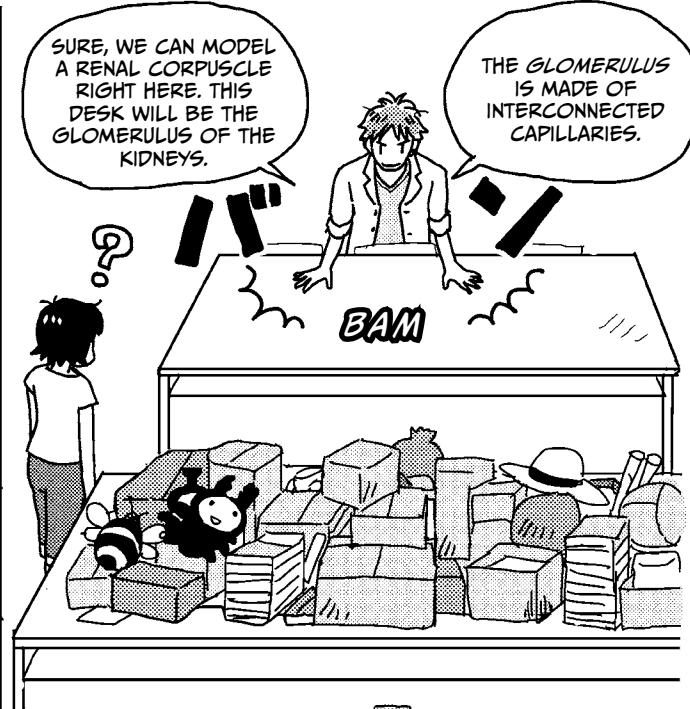
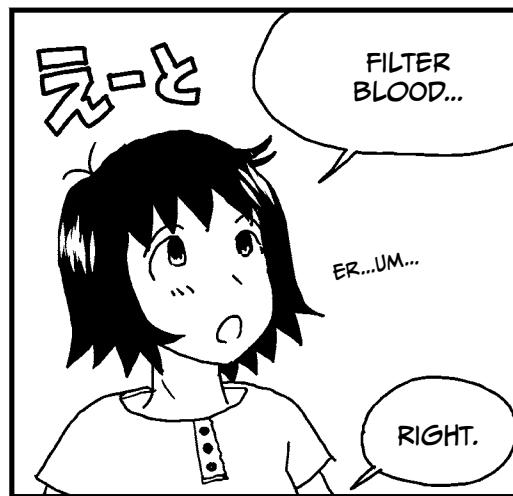
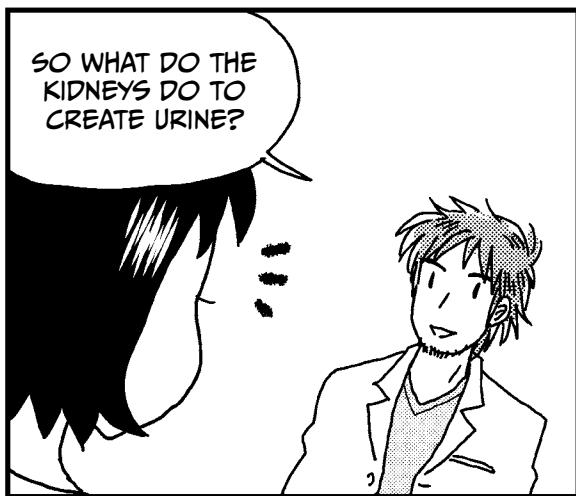
UNNECESSARY WASTE IS DISCARDED FROM THE KIDNEYS IN THE FORM OF URINE.



THAT'S RIGHT.

ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY SUBSTANCES FROM THE BODY IN THIS WAY IS CALLED EXCRETION.

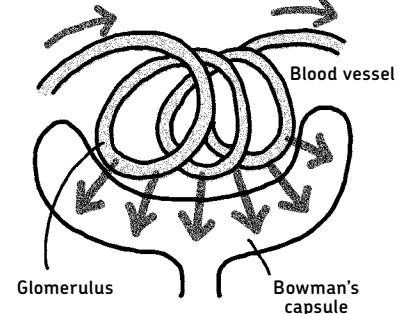
\* WASTE PRODUCTS INCLUDE UREA (FROM PROTEIN METABOLISM), URIC ACID (FROM NUCLEIC ACIDS), CREATININE (FROM MUSCLE METABOLISM), UROBILINOGEN (A BYPRODUCT OF HEMOGLOBIN BREAKDOWN), AND VARIOUS PRODUCTS OF HORMONE METABOLISM.



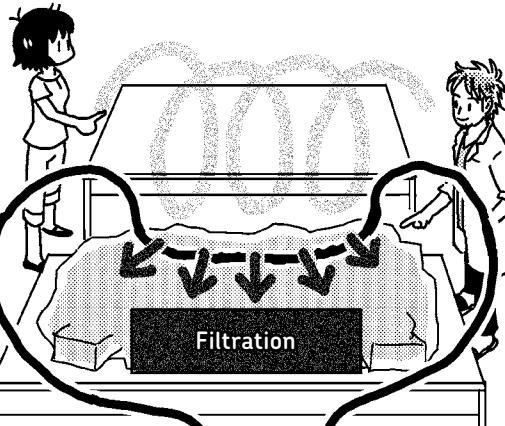
THE GLOMERULUS IS A NETWORK OF CAPILLARIES BUNDLED UP, KIND OF LIKE A BALL OF YARN, RIGHT?

SPRO-OING

### Renal Corpuscle



THE GLOMERULUS ACTS LIKE A SIEVE, FILTERING BLOOD AS IT PASSES THROUGH TINY OPENINGS IN THE WALLS.

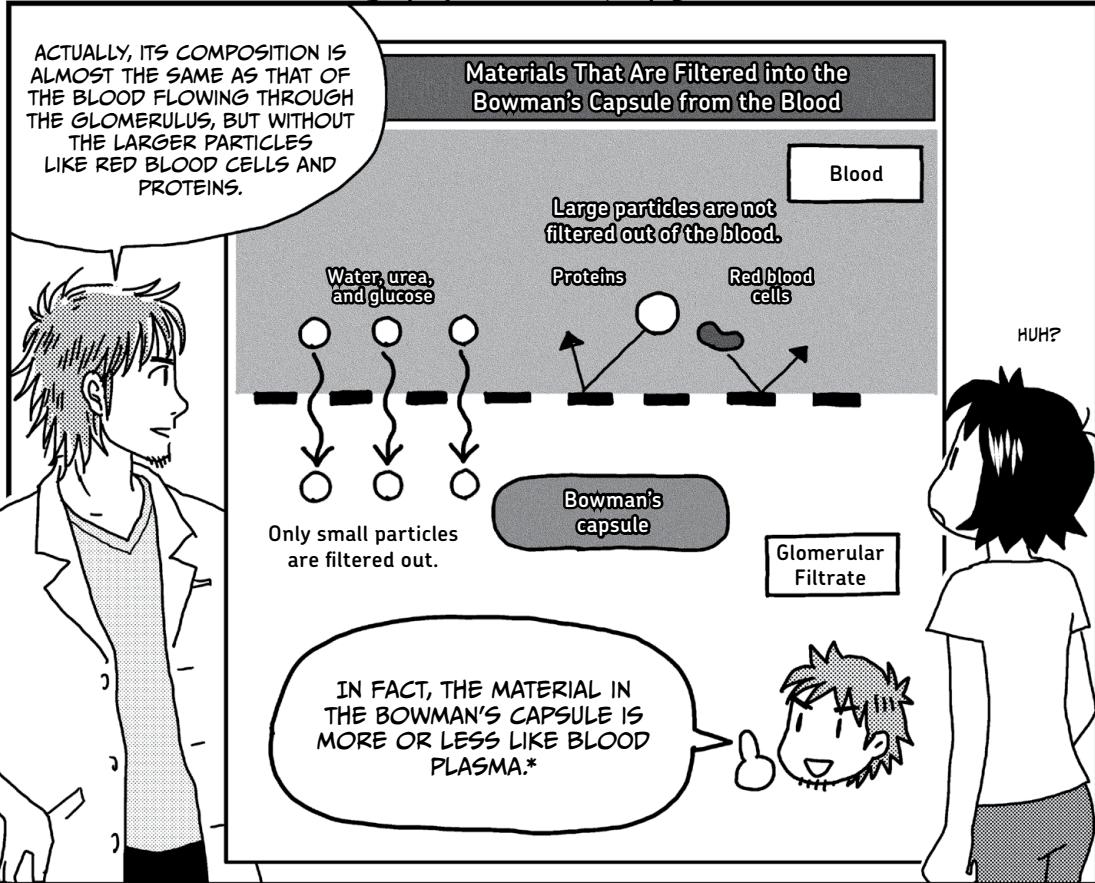
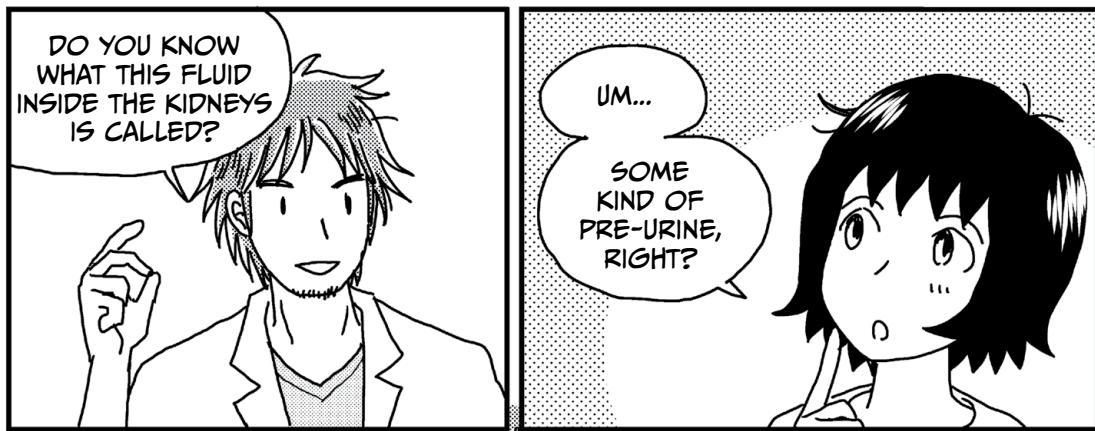


YEAH, THIS IS BOWMAN'S CAPSULE, WHICH CAPTURES THE FILTERED BLOOD.

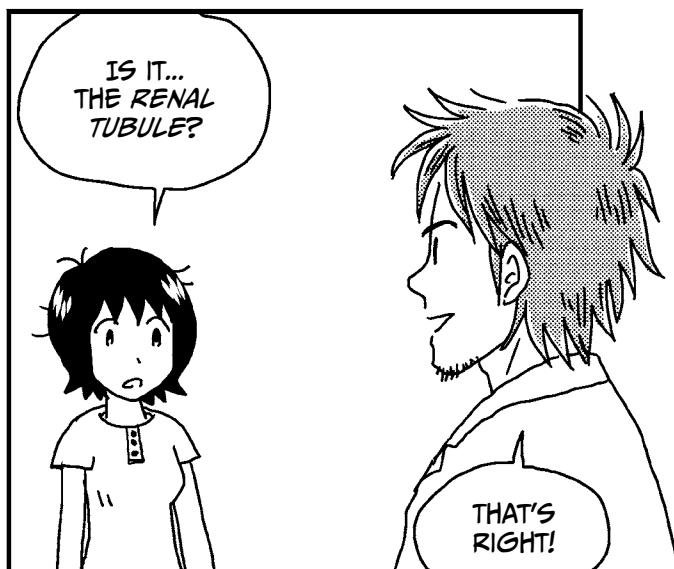
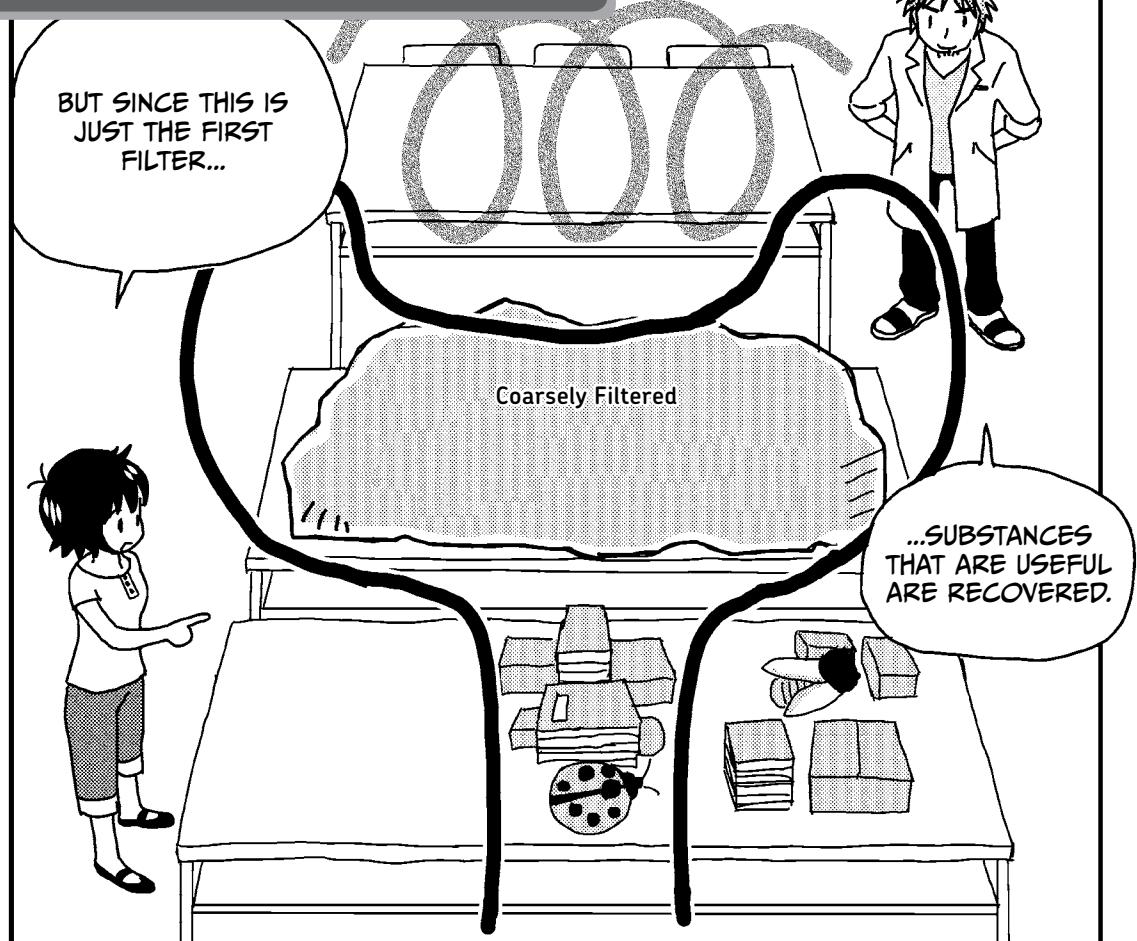
THE STUFF PILED HERE CORRESPONDS TO THE FILTERED BYPRODUCTS OF THE BLOOD.

RIGHT.  
BUT THIS IS JUST THE STUFF THAT WAS MECHANICALLY FILTERED BY THE FORCE OF THE BLOOD PRESSURE...

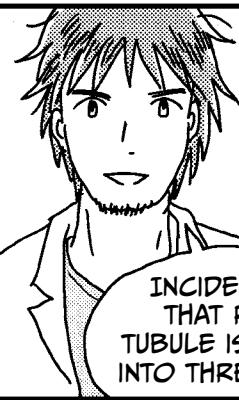




## REABSORBING WATER AND NUTRIENTS



ABSORPTION FROM THE RENAL TUBULE TO THE SURROUNDING BLOOD VESSELS IS CALLED REABSORPTION.



INCIDENTALLY, THAT RENAL TUBULE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE CALLED?



UM...WHAT ARE THEY CALLED....

HE...HE...HEN...

H-E-N-L-E!!

THE LOOP OF HENLE!

THAT'S IT.

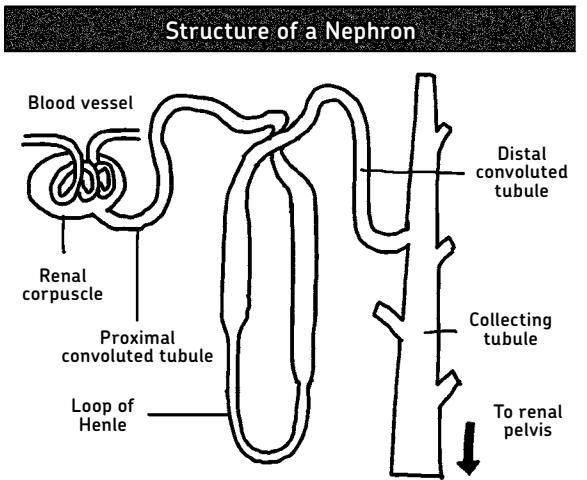
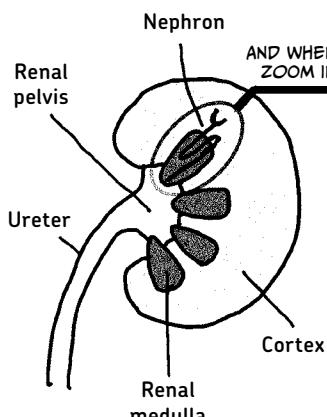
O R R R R R



THE PART OF THE RENAL TUBULE THAT FOLLOWS THE BOWMAN'S CAPSULE IS CALLED THE PROXIMAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE. THE NEXT PART, WHICH GETS NARROWER AND MAKES A HAIRPIN-LIKE TURN, IS CALLED THE LOOP OF HENLE. THE PART FOLLOWING THAT IS THE DISTAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE.

THE RENAL CORPUSCLE AND THIS RENAL TUBULE TOGETHER ARE CALLED A NEPHRON.\*

A NEPHRON IS THE MOST BASIC FUNCTIONAL UNIT OF THE KIDNEY.



\* A SINGLE KIDNEY CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 1,000,000 NEPHRONS.

SO THE SUBSTANCES THAT ARE REABSORBED IN THE RENAL TUBULE ARE...

WATER AND MINERALS.

Reabsorption

RIGHT!

Blood vessel

Glomerulus

Renal tubule

Reabsorption

The required amounts of water and minerals such as sodium and potassium are reabsorbed depending on what the body needs.

GLUCOSE, AMINO ACIDS, AND VITAMINS ARE ALSO REABSORBED.

Reabsorption

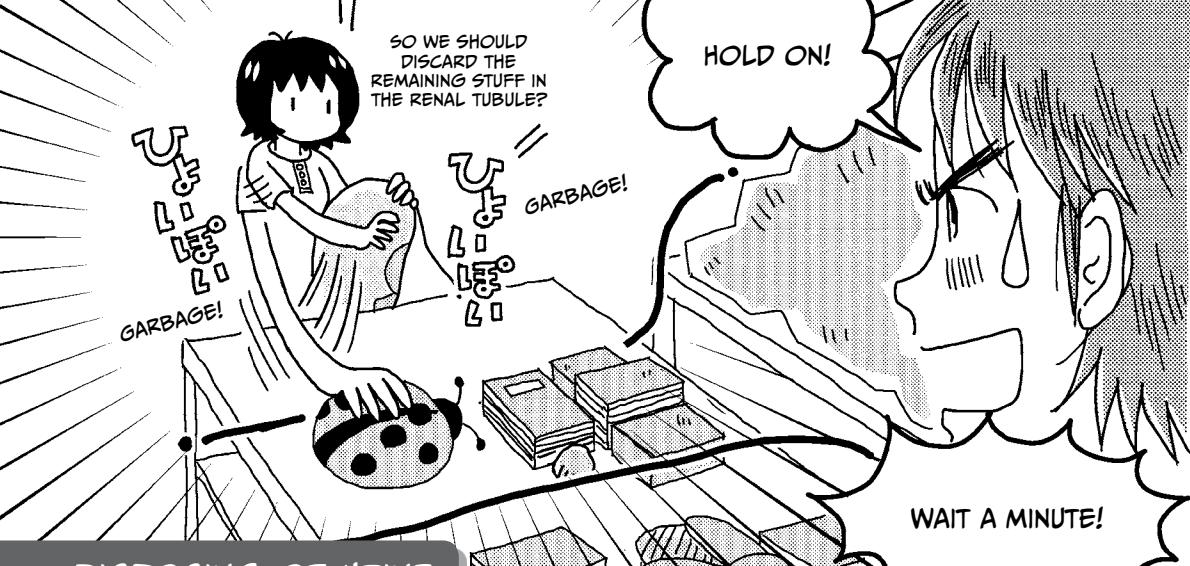
AHH, TRUE LOVE~

SO THE RENAL TUBULE ACTUALLY DOES THE WORK OF DISPOSING OF EXCESS MINERALS, ACIDS, TOXINS, AND OTHER UNNECESSARY SUBSTANCES THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE BLOOD.

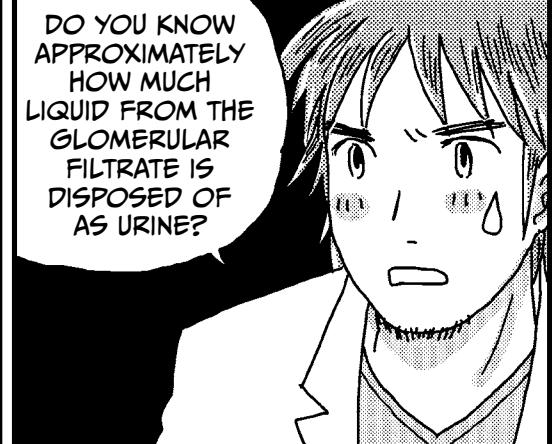
WOW, THE KIDNEYS ARE AMAAAZING!

IN THIS WAY, THE KIDNEYS MAINTAIN A STABLE, CONSTANT ENVIRONMENT INSIDE THE BODY CALLED HOMEOSTASIS.\*

\* SEE "URINE AND HOMEOSTASIS IN THE BODY" ON PAGE 92.



## DISPOSING OF URINE



THAT'S RIGHT!

### Reabsorption

ALMOST  
99  
PERCENT

# SO MUCH STUFF

SO WHILE THE AMOUNT OF URINE PRODUCED PER DAY IS APPROXIMATELY 1 TO 2 LITERS, THE AMOUNT OF GLOMERULAR FILTRATE PER DAY IS AROUND 180 LITERS, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

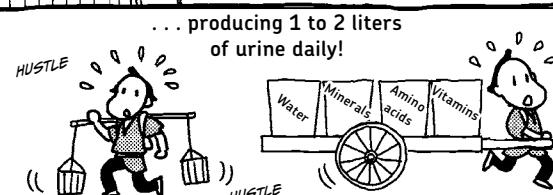
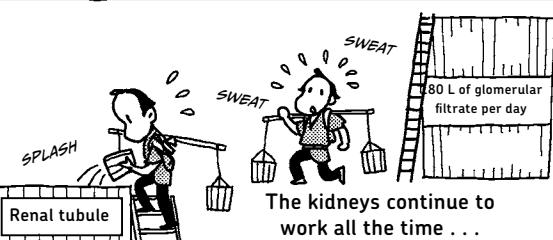
### THE WORK OF MR. KIDNEY

THE NAME'S KIDNEY.

I make urine by concentrating primary urine (glomerular filtrate).

まあ、

OH MY!



MR. KIDNEY IS SUCH A HARD WORKER!!

SO THAT'S HOW WE LEARN ABOUT PHYSIOLOGY BY SORTING THROUGH MY GIANT PILE OF STUFF.



I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE KIDNEYS DO BUT...

### REABSORPTION

TOGETHER FOREVER

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER UNDERSTAND THIS!!

# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE KIDNEYS!



Besides water, urine contains components such as sodium and other minerals, urea, uric acid, and creatinine. In a healthy person, urine is pale yellow and transparent since it contains no proteins or sugars. However, the properties of urine are not always constant as urine has a close relationship with homeostasis.

## URINE AND HOMEOSTASIS IN THE BODY



The color and odor of urine can change quite a lot. After I run a marathon, the color of my urine gets really dark, but when I drink a lot of water, I urinate a large amount of almost colorless urine.



That's right. That's because the environment inside the body—such as the amount of water or pH—is being kept in a stable, constant condition.

To keep the body in this stable condition, the kidneys often have to eliminate different amounts and concentrations of material. The food and drink that we consume, the amount of activity we engage in, and how much we perspire all vary from day to day, and the substances that are disposed of as urine vary accordingly.

If you don't drink much water or if you release a lot of liquid as perspiration, you will urinate a smaller volume of more concentrated, darker urine because your body will want to dispose of as little liquid as possible. If you drink a lot of water, you will urinate a greater volume of paler urine because your body will steadily dispose of that excess water as urine.

A healthy adult produces about 1 to 2 liters of urine a day, which can be about 1 milliliter of urine per minute. If urine were discharged as fast as it's produced, we'd have to wear diapers all day! Instead, the bladder stores up urine until it starts to get full, and that's when you have to urinate. Let's look at what happens to urine in the body. Urine is produced in the kidney, and then it passes through the ureter and accumulates in the bladder. When you are standing or sitting, urine naturally falls into the bladder because of gravity. But urine is transported to the bladder even if your body is horizontal or if you are an astronaut in a state of weightlessness. This is because the ureter performs peristaltic motion to send urine to the bladder. We saw peristaltic motion earlier in the alimentary canal, too.



So how is the volume of urine in the body regulated?



The regulation of urine volume is mainly affected by two hormones. One is called the *antidiuretic hormone (ADH)*, and is secreted from the posterior pituitary gland (see "Main Endocrine Organs and Hormones" on page 221). It is also known as vasopressin. The other hormone is called *aldosterone*, which is secreted from the adrenal cortex (see "The Adrenal Glands" on page 215).

ADH is primarily secreted when blood volume is low and blood is more concentrated (see "Osmotic Pressure" on page 106 for more on blood volume), such as when the body

is dehydrated. It stimulates the reabsorption of water through the renal collecting duct. This increases the water volume in the blood so that the urine is concentrated and the volume decreases.

Secretion of aldosterone is similarly triggered by decreases in blood volume and even blood pressure. Aldosterone stimulates the reabsorption of sodium from the renal tubule into the bloodstream. Through osmosis, water follows the sodium and is reabsorbed into the bloodstream (see Figure 4-1), reducing the urine volume as a result.

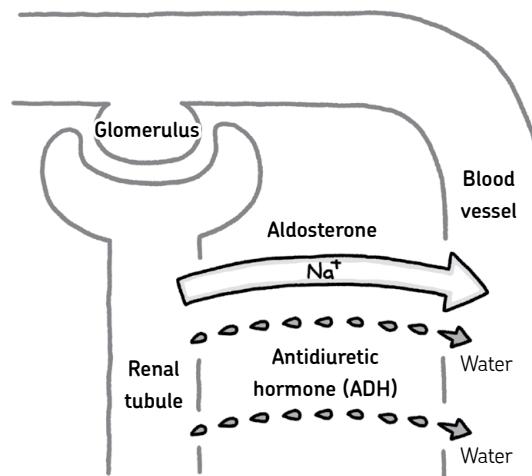


Figure 4-1: Water reabsorption from urine

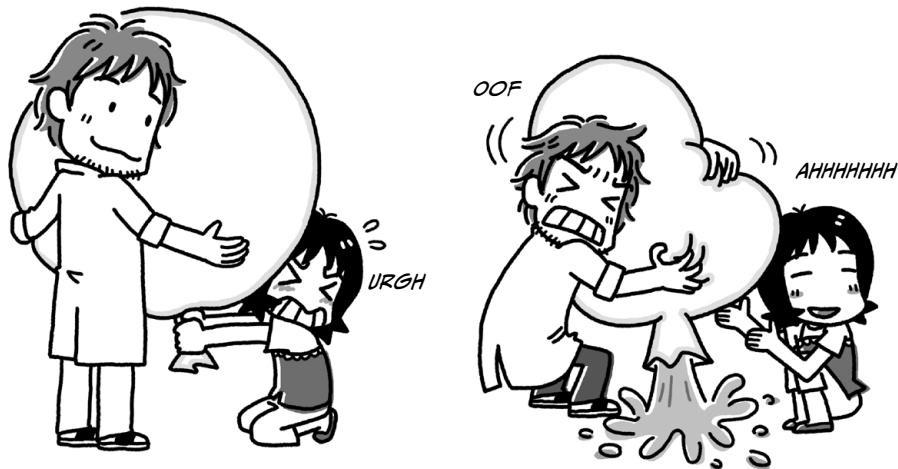
#### Homeostasis and the Body's Crisis Management System

Living creatures must maintain homeostasis despite changes inside and outside the body. Homeostasis is an active and dynamic process: the body regulates its temperature and pH, fights off invading pathogens, and heals wounds. Many different systems, from the autonomic system to the endocrine system, work together to maintain a delicate equilibrium. In addition to the many bodily functions that go unnoticed, the drive for homeostasis can affect the way we feel and act. The body becomes hungry when blood sugar drops and thirsty when dehydrated, for example. If the environment inside the body gets out of balance, the body will attempt to return to its normal state.

## THE PROCESS OF URINATION

Let's go over what happens during urination. When there's room in the bladder to store more urine, the smooth muscles in the wall of the bladder relax while both the internal sphincter (smooth muscles) and external sphincter (skeletal muscles) located at the exit of the bladder contract, holding the urine in. When approximately 200 to 300 milliliters of urine have accumulated, the bladder walls stretch out and a message is sent to the brain,

triggering the urge to urinate. When you rush to the bathroom to pee, the muscles in the bladder walls contract, the internal and external sphincters relax, and you urinate (see Figure 4-2).



While urine accumulates, the bladder is stretched. The smooth muscles in the walls of the bladder relax, and both the internal and external sphincter contract.

When you want to urinate, the muscles in the walls of the bladder contract, and the internal and external sphincters open to release urine.

Figure 4-2: Bladder muscles controlling the release of urine

Usually, once urination begins, it continues until all urine is expelled from the bladder. However, if a problem occurs, some urine can remain inside the bladder. This is called *residual urine*, and it can cause an increased risk of infection or even kidney dysfunction.



Approximately how much urine can the bladder hold?



Normally, when approximately 200 to 300 milliliters of urine has accumulated, you get the urge to urinate. However, if you really hold it in, you can store up to 500 milliliters. In fact, under some circumstances, the bladder is said to be able to hold up to *800 to 1000 milliliters!*

### The Urinary Tract

Together the kidneys, ureter, bladder, and urethra make up the urinary tract. The bladder and internal sphincter are smooth muscles (involuntary muscles), and the external sphincter is a skeletal muscle (voluntary muscle). Therefore, urination is a complex, high-level operation in which involuntary actions and voluntary actions are intertwined.



The urethra is different in males and females, isn't it?



That's right. The male urethra is 16 to 18 centimeters (6 to 7 inches) long, while the female urethra is only 3 to 4 centimeters (1 to 1.5 inches) long.

This is one of the reasons why females are more susceptible to cystitis or a urinary tract infection (UTI). Bacteria can enter through the urethral orifice, reach the bladder, and cause infection (see Figure 4-3).

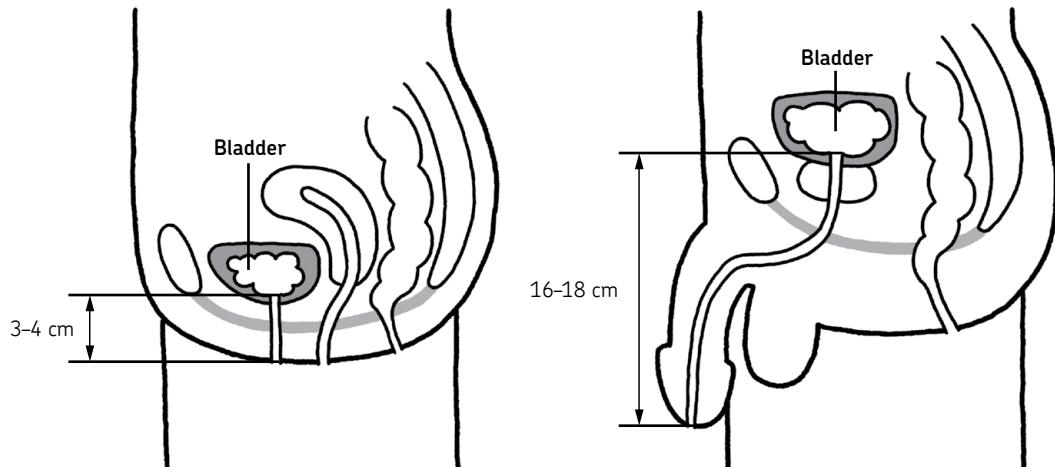


Figure 4-3: Different lengths of male and female urethras

## MONITORING BLOOD IN THE KIDNEYS



The kidneys are also endocrine organs that secrete hormones.



What? They don't just create urine?



No, the kidneys secrete hormones related to blood pressure and the creation of blood. Since blood is filtered in the kidneys, a large volume of blood is always passing through them. They monitor the blood flowing in, and if they discover a problem, they secrete a hormone to resolve that problem. It's a well-balanced system, isn't it?

## KIDNEY FUN FACTS!

The two kidneys are located on the left and right sides of the body, at the lower back. When functioning normally, a single kidney is enough to work for the entire body! That means a patient suffering from end-stage renal disease may be eligible to receive a kidney from a sibling, and both of the siblings can then live with a single kidney.



The kidneys carefully monitor two factors in particular: blood pressure and oxygen concentration (see Figure 14-4). If blood pressure drops, the blood can no longer be filtered properly in the renal corpuscle. When this happens, the kidneys secrete the hormone renin, which then influences the hormones angiotensin and aldosterone, which in turn raise the blood pressure.

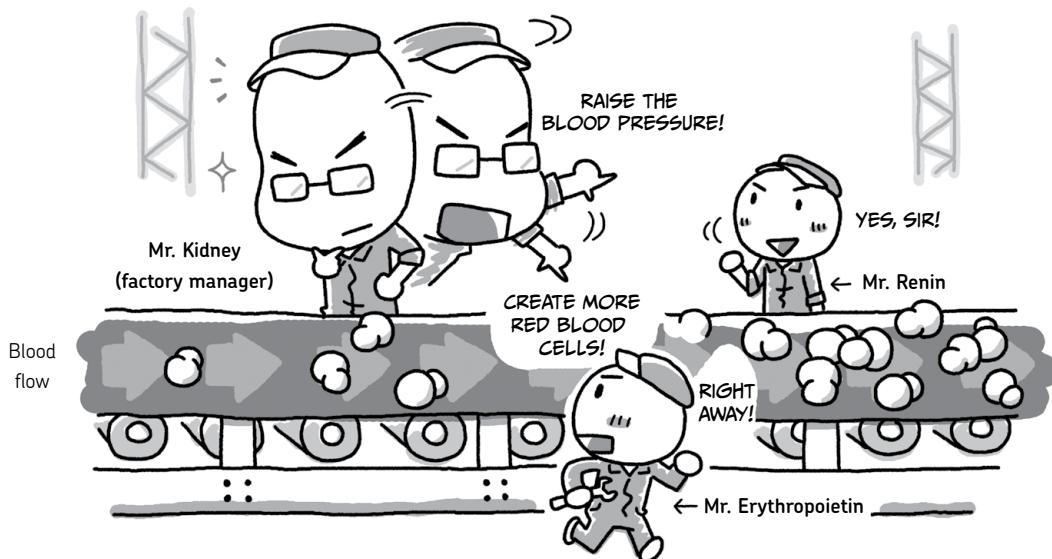


Figure 4-4: The kidneys secrete hormones to regulate blood pressure and oxygen concentration.

Low oxygen concentration of the blood flowing into the kidneys indicates that there are not enough red blood cells carrying oxygen. The kidneys will then secrete the hormone erythropoietin to influence the creation of more red blood cells in the bone marrow.

One more job that the kidneys perform is vitamin D activation, which allows us to metabolize calcium and strengthen our bones. Vitamin D can be absorbed from the foods we eat or created in the skin when the skin is exposed to the sun. However, it cannot strengthen bones directly. First, it must be converted by the kidneys to the active form of vitamin D, a substance called calcitriol, before the body can metabolize calcium (see Figure 4-5).



Figure 4-5: The kidneys convert vitamin D into calcitriol, which is necessary for the metabolism of calcium.

## WHEN THE KIDNEYS STOP WORKING



The kidneys eliminate waste products that are produced in the body, as well as excess liquids and minerals. The average amount of urine produced in a day for a healthy adult is between 1 and 1.5 liters. However, this volume can change depending on how much water is drunk or how much the body has perspired, so it can be less than 1 liter or as much as 2 liters.

The production of less than 400 milliliters of urine per day is called *oliguria*. Oliguria can cause serious health complications because at least 400 milliliters of urine are required to dispose of the waste products produced in the body in a day. *Anuria* occurs if the daily urine volume is below 50 milliliters.



What happens when the kidneys stop working?



That is called *renal insufficiency* or *renal failure* (see Figure 4-6). There are various degrees of severity, ranging from mild cases to conditions in which kidney function is almost completely lost.

Renal insufficiency occurs when the kidneys can't perform their functions because they are diseased, infected, or overloaded with toxins or because their blood supply is interrupted due to injury. When renal insufficiency occurs, water, acid, potassium, and waste products are not disposed of effectively and can accumulate in the body. This is similar to what happens when a swimming pool filter breaks down and the water steadily gets dirtier. If waste products are not eliminated, the ensuing buildup of toxins can lead to *uremia*, a serious and even deadly illness.

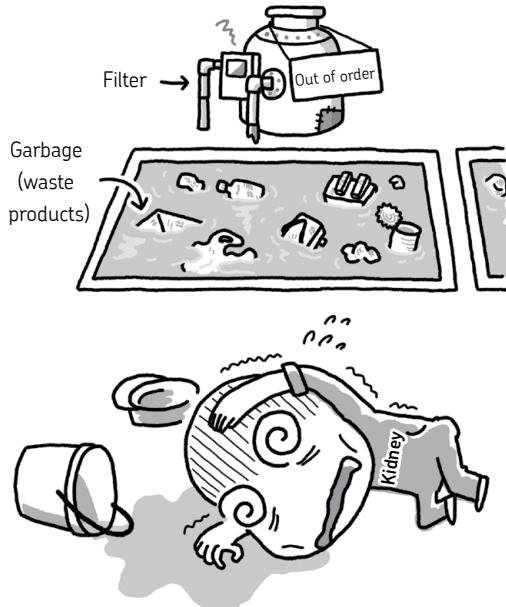


Figure 4-6: Renal insufficiency

Renal insufficiency can also mean that excess water is not disposed of, in which case the blood volume will increase, the heart will have to work harder, and heart failure may occur. Heart failure can in turn cause the lungs to become flooded—a condition called *pulmonary edema*, which can lead to respiratory failure. Another result of renal insufficiency is a buildup of acid (*acidosis*), since acid is not eliminated. If excessive potassium accumulates in the body, the heart muscles may convulse irregularly (*ventricular fibrillation*), which can lead to sudden death.

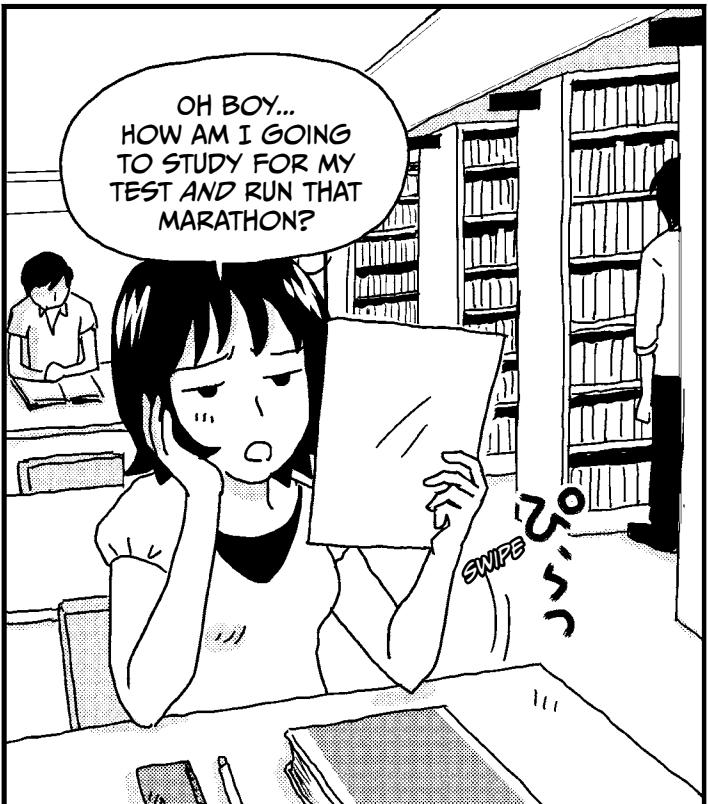
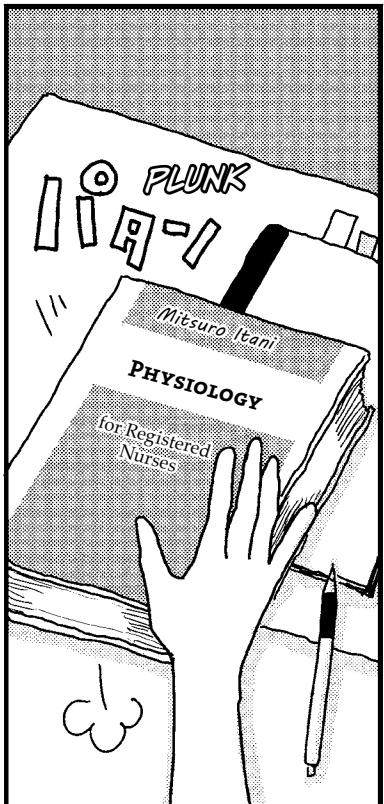
### Kidney Problems and Dialysis

Since the kidneys are also involved in the regulation of blood pressure, the production of blood, and the metabolism of calcium, problems in the kidneys can cause high blood pressure, anemia, or bone fractures, as well as a buildup of toxins and water. For patients with severe kidney injury, machines have been developed to remove waste products and excess water from the body. This process is called *dialysis*.

# 5

## BODY FLUIDS

A BALANCING ACT IN THE  
BLOOD, TISSUE, AND CELLS



EVERYONE'S SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS MARATHON.

IT'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE...

THEY'RE ALL COMING BACK EARLY FROM SUMMER VACATION JUST TO WATCH!

GO KUMIKO!

THIS BOOK IS MONSTROUS!

WHO COULD GET THROUGH SUCH A THICK, BORING TEXTBOOK??

3 in

THUMP!

I NEED TO TRAIN, BUT I HAVE TO SPEND ALL DAY READING THIS!!

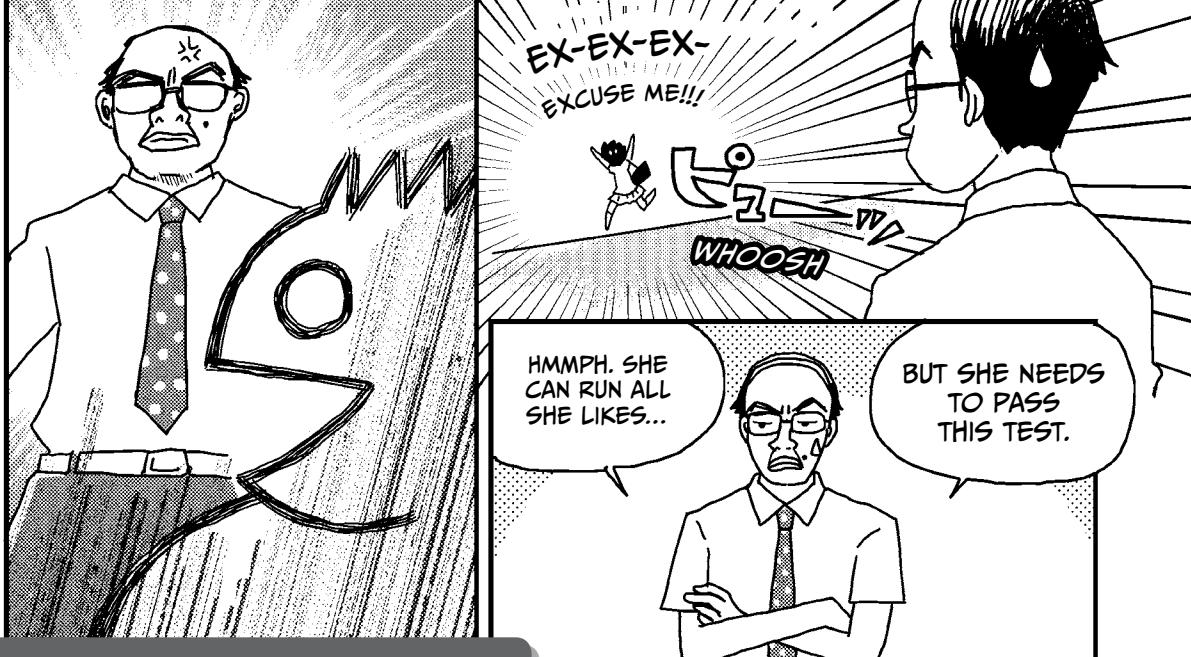
BUT THANKS TO PROFESSOR KASEI, PHYSIOLOGY IS STARTING TO GET MORE INTERESTING...

WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT?

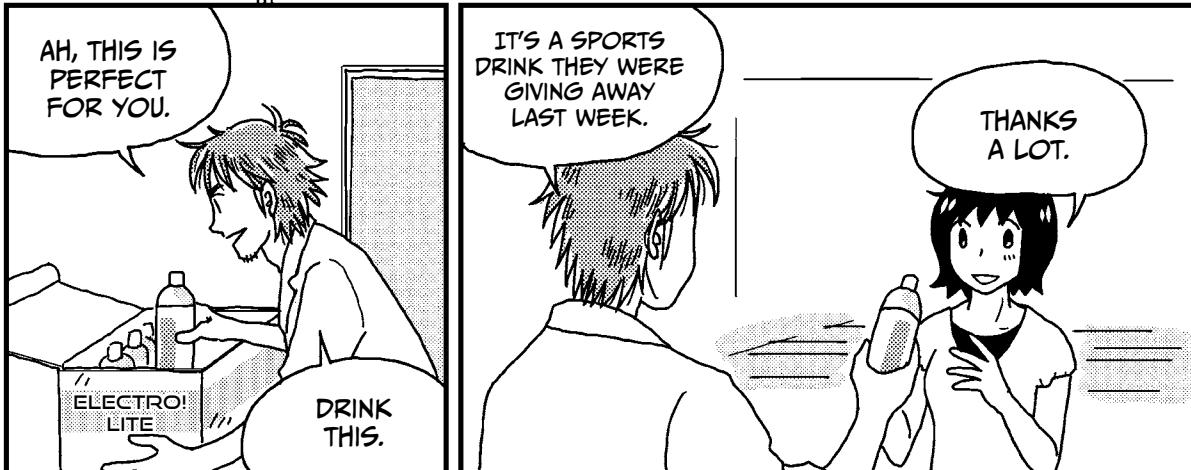
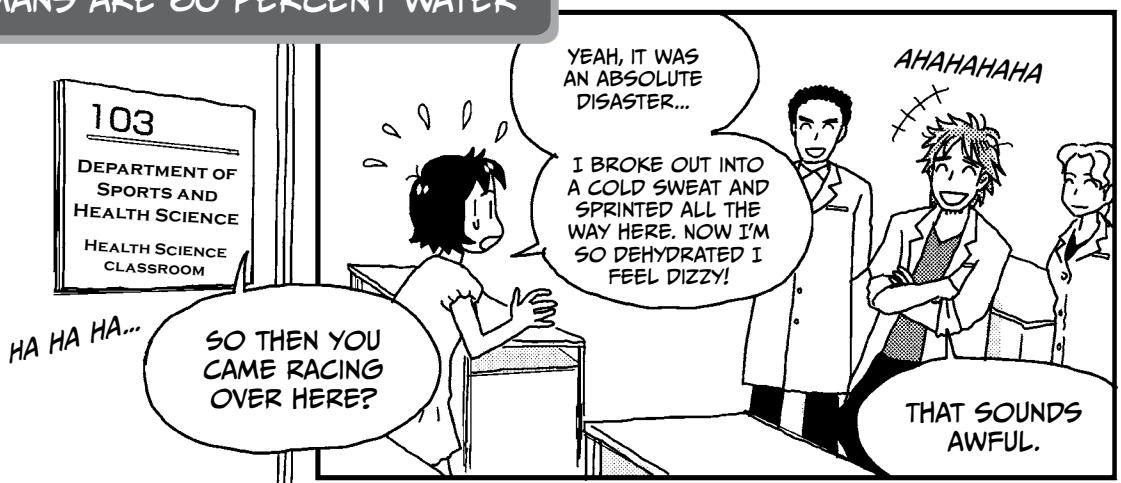
HAVE YOU BEEN STUDYING FOR YOUR MAKEUP EXAM?!

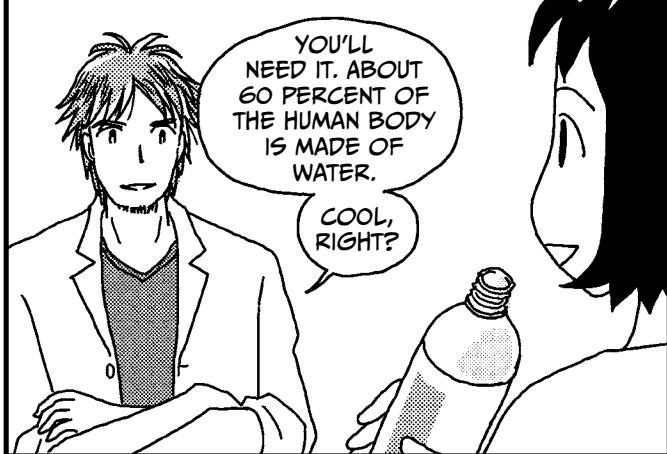
AH...

YES?



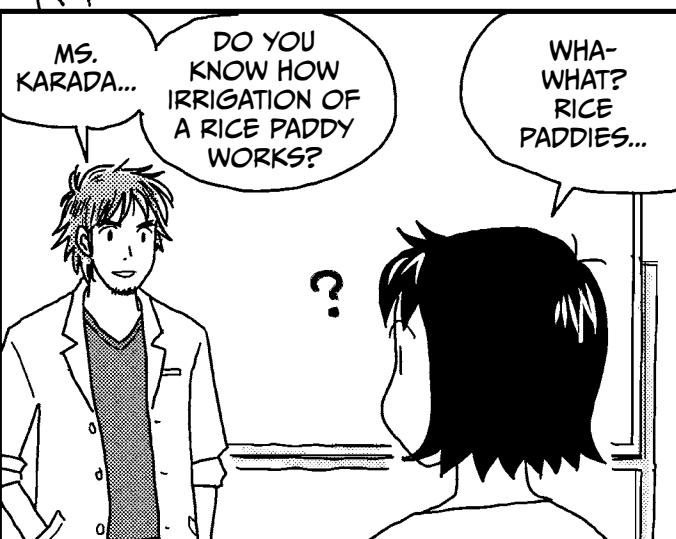
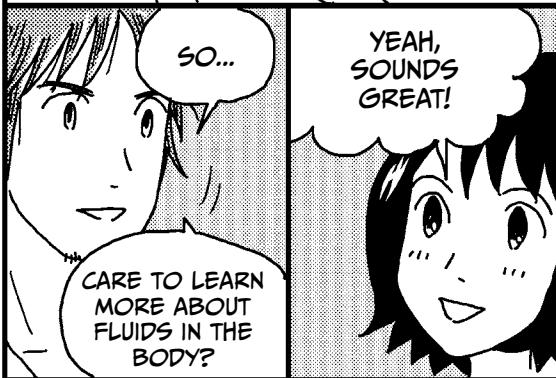
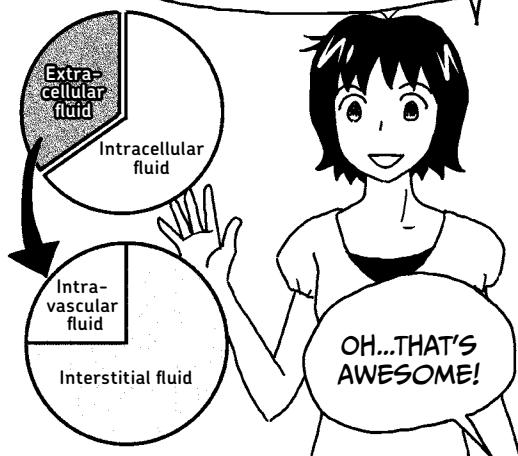
## HUMANS ARE 60 PERCENT WATER





I KNEW THAT!  
TWO THIRDS OF THE WATER  
IN OUR BODIES IS INSIDE OUR  
CELLS (INTRACELLULAR FLUID)  
AND THE REST IS OUTSIDE  
(EXTRACELLULAR FLUID).

OF THE EXTRACELLULAR FLUID,  
THREE QUARTERS IS INTERSTITIAL FLUID,  
INSIDE THE MUSCLE TISSUE (ALSO  
CALLED TISSUE FLUID), AND THE REST  
IS EITHER PLASMA INSIDE OUR BLOOD  
(INTRAVASCULAR FLUID) OR FLUID IN  
THE BODY CAVITY!



THE JAPANESE  
COUNTRYSIDE IS  
ILLED WITH RICE  
PADDIES.

KUMIKO, ARE  
YOU STUDYING  
HARD?

LEAVE ME ALONE!

SIGH...

RICE PADDIES  
ARE REALLY  
GREAT.

THERE ARE  
INSECTS  
EVERWHERE...

AHEM...

ANYWAY,  
WE CAN LIKEN THE  
IRRIGATION IN PADDY  
FIELDS TO HOW  
FLUIDS WORK INSIDE  
YOUR BODY.

THE RICE  
PLANTS ARE  
LIKE CELLS...

THE IRRIGATED  
PADDY FIELDS ARE  
LIKE THE INTERSTITIAL  
FLUID BETWEEN  
CELLS...

AND THE CHANNELS  
DRAWING WATER FROM  
THE STREAM TO THE  
IRRIGATED PADDY  
FIELDS ARE LIKE THE  
BLOOD VESSELS.

WATER AND  
NUTRIENTS ARE  
CARRIED BY THE  
CHANNELS.

Blood

THIS SUPPLIES  
INTERSTITIAL  
FLUID BETWEEN  
CELLS.

Interstitial fluid

THE CELLS ABSORB  
WHAT THEY NEED  
FROM THAT FLUID!

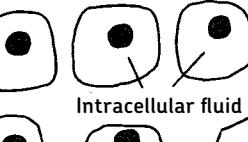
Cells

I SEE...

THIS IS  
JUST WEIRD  
ENOUGH TO  
MAKE SENSE!

INTERSTITIAL FLUID IS THE FLUID OUTSIDE OUR CELLS. ITS COMPONENTS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PLASMA.

Extracellular fluid



INTERSTITIAL FLUID AND BLOOD ARE CALLED EXTRACELLULAR FLUID SINCE THEY ARE OUTSIDE OF THE CELLS.

AND THE FLUID INSIDE CELLS IS CALLED INTRACELLULAR FLUID.

THE COMPONENTS OF EXTRACELLULAR FLUID AND INTRACELLULAR FLUID ARE DIFFERENT, RIGHT?

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

RIGHT.

BUT BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT HOW THEY'RE DIFFERENT, LET'S TALK ABOUT WHY THEY'RE DIFFERENT.

LIFE BEGAN IN THE PREHISTORIC OCEANS.

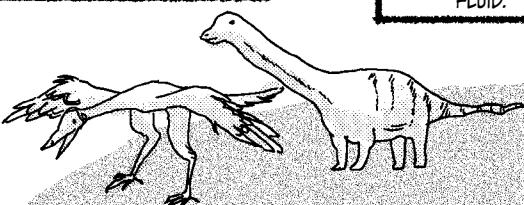


INTRACELLULAR FLUID WAS ENCLOSED BY CELL MEMBRANES AND SEPARATED FROM THE SURROUNDING OCEAN WATER, WHICH YOU MIGHT THINK OF AS EXTRACELLULAR FLUID.

Ocean water

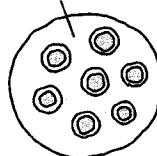
Intracellular fluid

Cell membrane



AS INDIVIDUAL CELLS JOINED TOGETHER AND MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS EVOLVED, EVENTUALLY, THEY EMERGED FROM THE OCEAN ONTO DRY LAND. BUT IN A WAY, IT'S AS IF THE CELLS REMAINED IN THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL OCEAN (EXTRACELLULAR FLUID).

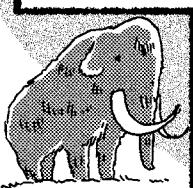
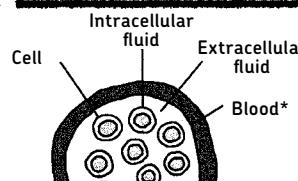
Extracellular fluid



EXTRACELLULAR FLUID IN LARGER, MORE COMPLEX ORGANISMS HAS MANY OF THE SAME COMPONENTS AS OCEAN WATER, PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR CELLS THAT IS SIMILAR TO THE OCEAN IN PREHISTORIC TIMES.

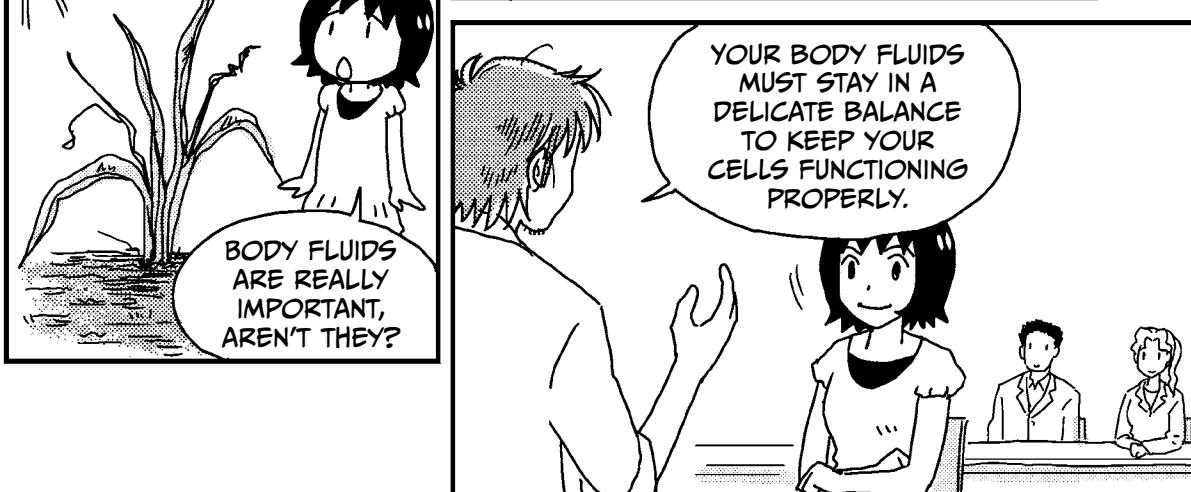
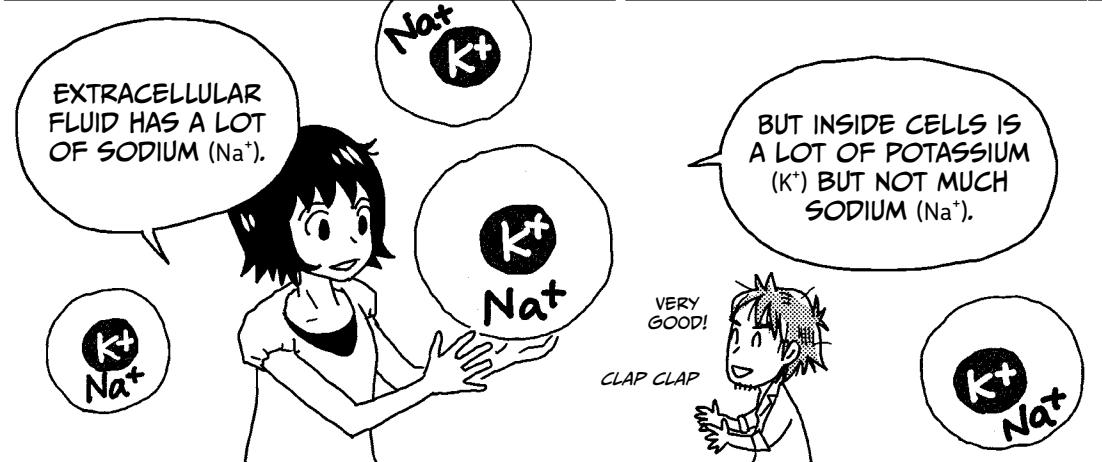
Extracellular fluid

Intracellular fluid

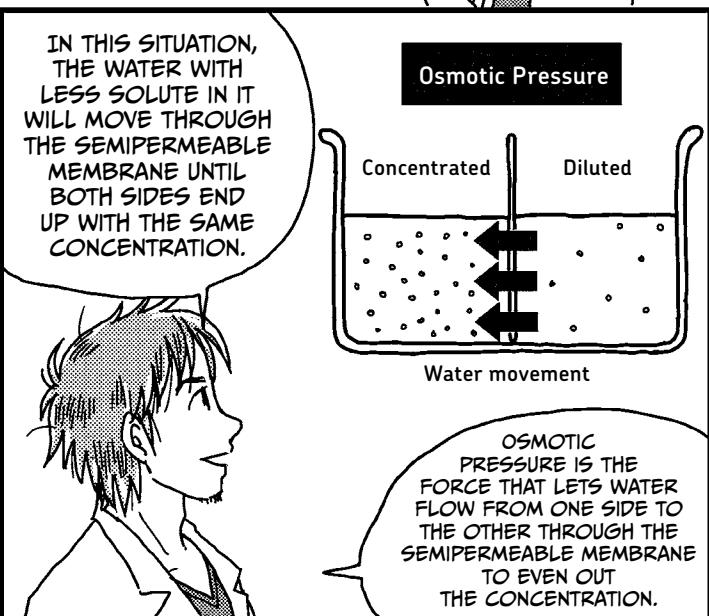
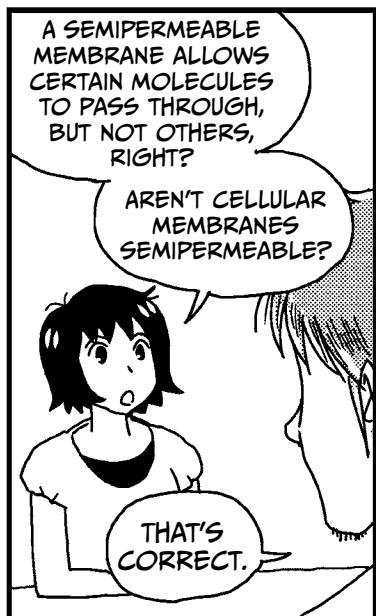
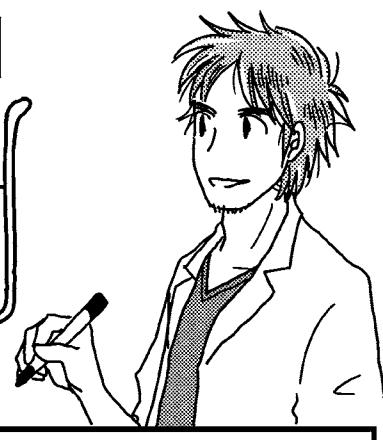
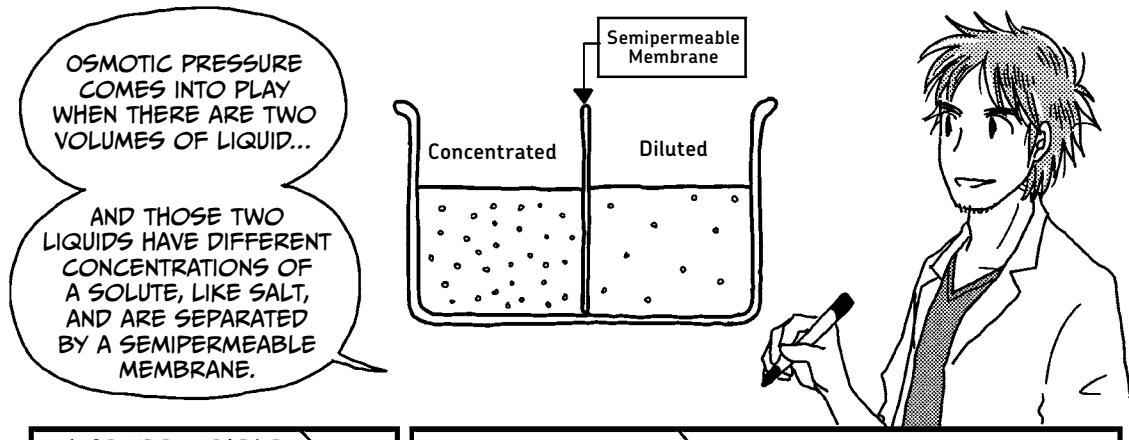
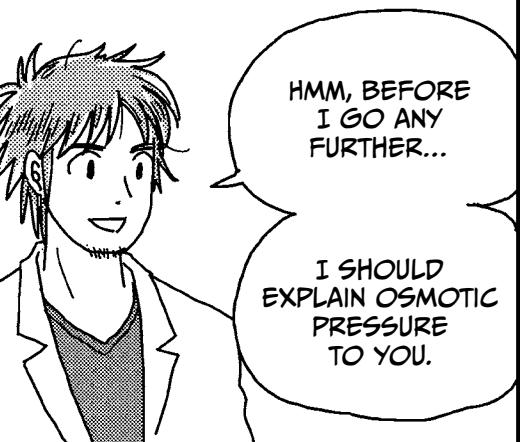


\* BLOOD CAN ALSO BE THOUGHT OF AS EXTRACELLULAR FLUID THAT CARRIES OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS TO EACH CELL.

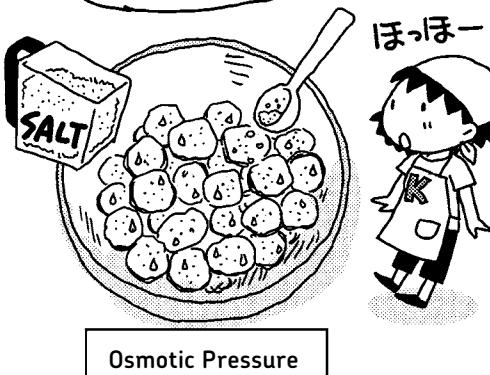




## OSMOTIC PRESSURE



WHEN YOU MAKE PICKLED CUCUMBERS, THIS IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT DRAWS OUT THE MOISTURE.



OH!

THE WATER INSIDE THE CUCUMBER, WHERE THE SALT CONCENTRATION IS LOW, MOVES OUT OF THE CUCUMBER TO WHERE THE SALT CONCENTRATION IS HIGH UNTIL THE CONCENTRATION IS THE SAME INSIDE AND OUT. IS IT LIKE THE WAY GAS DIFFUSES, EXPANDING TO FILL A SPACE?

ACTUALLY, THEY'RE A BIT DIFFERENT. DIFFUSION IS THE PHENOMENON IN WHICH PARTICLES SPREAD OUT FROM A HIGHLY CONCENTRATED AREA TO A LESS CONCENTRATED AREA. IN OSMOSIS THE PARTICLES MOVE FROM A LOW CONCENTRATION TO A HIGH CONCENTRATION.

**Osmosis** is the movement of water particles between two volumes of liquid (separated by a semipermeable membrane) with different concentrations of a solute. The movement of water is from *low concentration to high concentration*.

**Diffusion** is the movement of *solute* particles as they spread out. The movement of particles is *from high concentration to low concentration*.

I SEE.

I HAVE A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION!



IF YOU HAVE A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF SOLUTES IN A LIQUID, IS THE OSMOTIC PRESSURE HIGHER?

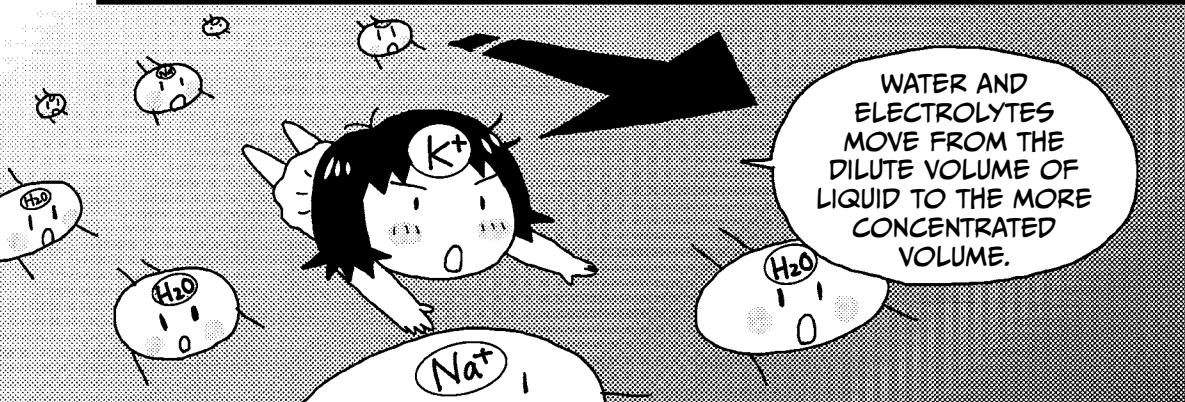
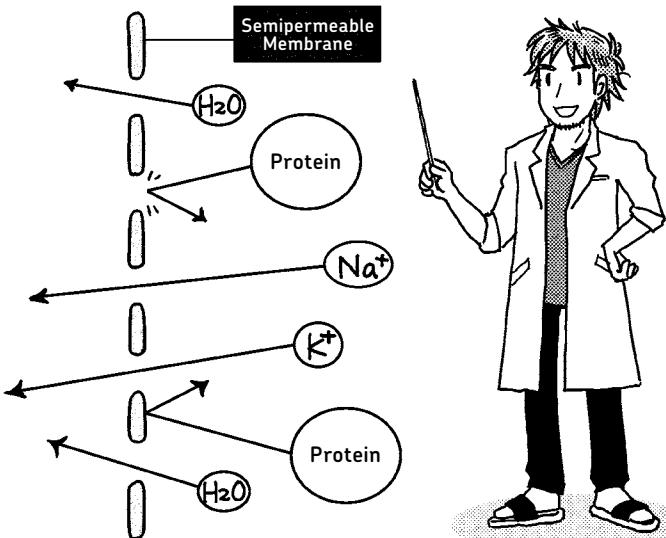
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.

THE STRENGTH OF OSMOTIC PRESSURE IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE NUMBER OF PARTICLES IN THE LIQUID.

AND THOSE PARTICLES DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE THE SAME TYPE.

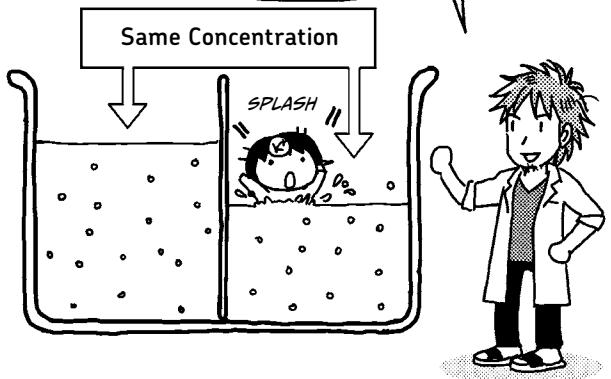
FOR EXAMPLE, BODY FLUIDS CONTAIN ELECTROLYTES\* SUCH AS POTASSIUM ( $K^+$ ) AND SODIUM ( $Na^+$ ), AS WELL AS GLUCOSE AND PROTEINS.

PROTEINS CAN'T PASS THROUGH THE OPENINGS IN THE SEMIPERMEABLE MEMBRANES OF CELLS, SINCE THEIR MOLECULES ARE TOO LARGE.

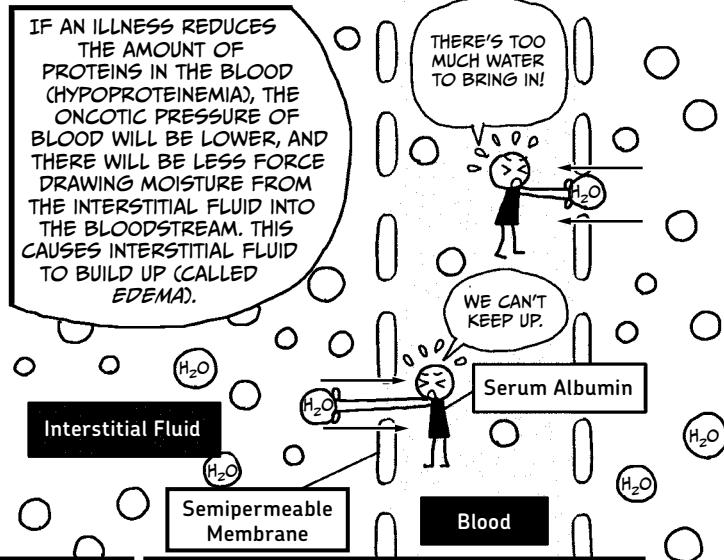
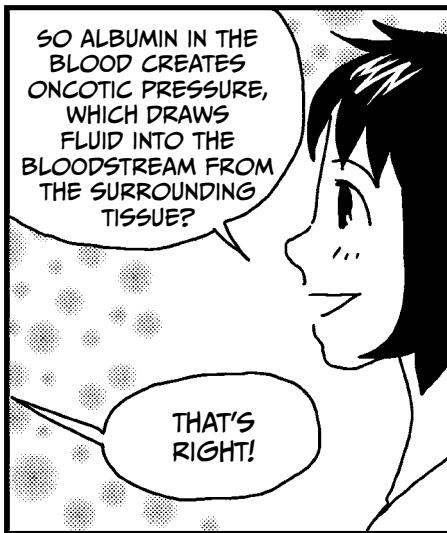
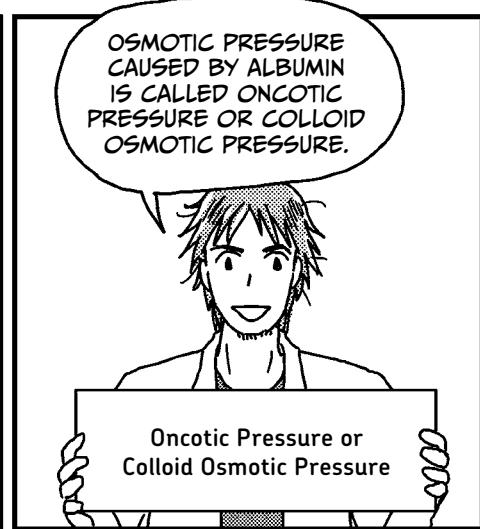
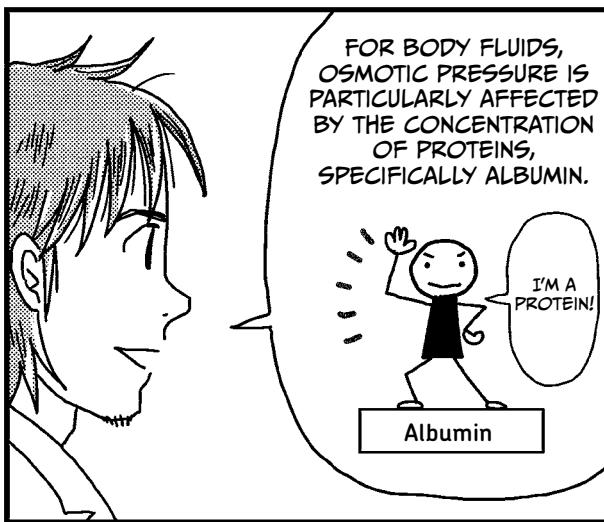


WATER AND ELECTROLYTES MOVE FROM THE DILUTE VOLUME OF LIQUID TO THE MORE CONCENTRATED VOLUME.

AFTER OSMOSIS OCCURS, WE END UP WITH TWO LIQUIDS WITH THE SAME CONCENTRATION, BUT DIFFERENT VOLUMES!



YOU GOT IT!



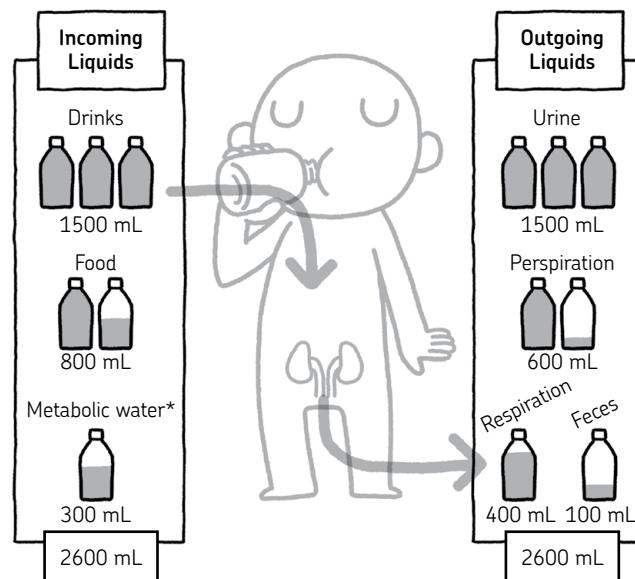
# EVEN MORE ABOUT BODY FLUIDS AND THE BLOOD!

Water is essential in all the normal functions of the human body. You need water to circulate blood throughout the body, maintain body temperature, dispose of unneeded waste products, and secrete digestive fluids.

## KEEPING HYDRATED



Approximately 60 percent of human body weight is made up of water. Your body needs to maintain that proportion, so liquids that are expelled from the body need to be replaced (see Figure 5-1). Liquids are taken into the body from both water and other drinks, and from particular foods, like vegetables, meat, and grains. An adult male cycles around 2600 milliliters per day: that's 2.6 liters going in and 2.6 liters going out!



\* Water produced by oxidizing carbohydrates.

Figure 5-1: Average volume of liquid entering and exiting body per day (for an adult male)



In a healthy person, the amount of liquid entering and exiting the body are the same, aren't they?



That's right. If the amount of liquid output is too little, edema occurs, and if it is too much, dehydration occurs.



What happens when the body is dehydrated?



Dehydration can cause various problems. Circulatory failure, impaired consciousness, and an increase in body temperature can all result from serious dehydration. Dehydration can even lead to death.

Dehydration can occur in several ways. *Intracellular dehydration* is mainly caused by excessive perspiration or an insufficient intake of liquids. As this occurs, the concentration of solutes in the extracellular fluid becomes greater, increasing the extracellular osmolarity. This in turn causes water to move from the intracellular space to the extracellular space, and the person feels thirsty as a result. When the concentration of extracellular fluid is too high, it's called hypertonicity.

On the other hand, *extracellular dehydration* occurs when the circulating blood volume decreases, causing blood pressure to drop significantly. This can be caused by a deficiency of sodium in the bloodstream; sodium helps retain liquid in intracellular fluids (especially blood plasma). If pure water were infused into the bloodstream in an intravenous drip, it would be too hypotonic for the body (that is, it wouldn't have enough solutes, like salt and other electrolytes), and cells might swell and die as result. In a drip, electrolytes must be added to the water in order for the body to safely tolerate it.

### WHO'S AT RISK?

Since liquids account for a greater proportion of the body weight of infants, and babies lose more liquids to perspiration and respiration than adults or older children do, infants can easily suffer dehydration. Elderly people with a reduced sense of thirst or less ability to conserve water are also at risk of dehydrating.



## WHAT'S IN BLOOD?



So far, we've been talking about water and fluids in the body in general. It's time we start talking in detail about one body fluid in particular: blood. Blood has many important characteristics and plays many vital roles in the body.

Let's start by thinking about how you would draw and examine a blood sample in a lab. When blood is drawn, an anticoagulant is added and the test tube is centrifuged. The blood cells will sink to the bottom, and a clear liquid will rise to the top, as shown in Figure 5-2. (When a liquid settles on top of another liquid or a solid, the upper layer is referred to as *supernatant*.)

This clear liquid at the top is *blood plasma*. Blood plasma is the extracellular fluid that carries blood cells throughout the body and helps remove waste products. It is mostly made up of water but also contains essential proteins like antibodies and enzymes.

The blood cells at the bottom of the tube can be divided into three general categories: red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. The majority of blood cells are red blood cells, which is why blood appears red. A test that finds the percentages of the various cells in the blood is called a *hematocrit*. I'll now introduce each of these kinds of blood cells one by one.

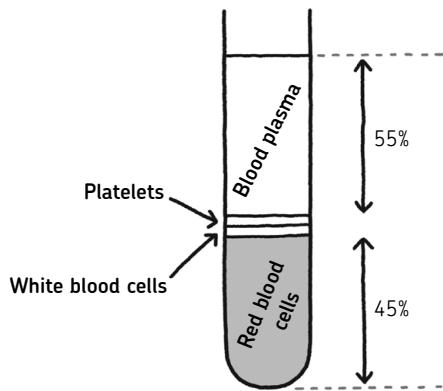


Figure 5-2: The components of blood and their distribution

## RED BLOOD CELLS



The most common type of blood cell is the *red blood cell*. Red blood cells are created in bone marrow. They don't have a cell nucleus, meaning they can't subdivide to make more cells, and they have a concave disk shape. This shape is advantageous because it increases the cell's surface area, allowing it to bond to more oxygen molecules. Red blood cells can also elongate to enter a capillary that's thinner than the blood cell's usual diameter, as shown in Figure 5-3.

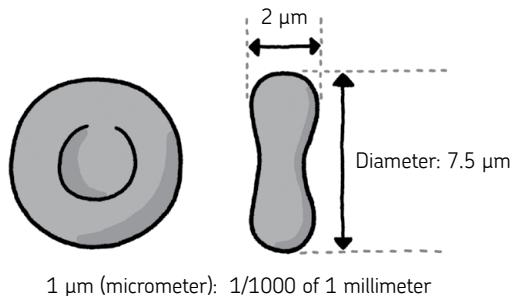


Figure 5-3: How big is a red blood cell?

Red blood cells transport oxygen using *hemoglobin*. Hemoglobin is a combination of a pigment called heme, which contains iron, and a protein called globin. Hemoglobin bonds easily to oxygen, which it picks up in the alveoli of the lungs. When hemoglobin picks up oxygen, it becomes a bright red color (see Figure 5-4). This is why arterial blood is bright red, while peripheral venous blood (blood whose oxygen has been transported to other parts of the body) is dark red.



Figure 5-4: When oxygen finds hemoglobin, they immediately bond, and the hemoglobin becomes bright red.



When there's not enough iron in the blood, anemia occurs. Isn't iron-deficiency anemia more common in women than men?



That's true. Since iron is an ingredient of hemoglobin, someone who does not take in enough iron will not make enough hemoglobin, and in turn the number of red blood cells will decrease.

Because women have menstrual cycles and lose a fixed amount of blood every month, they are more likely to become anemic. Women also naturally have a lower number of red blood cells and lower hemoglobin concentration than men.

### What Is Anemia?

*Anemia* is a condition caused by a reduction in the ability to transport oxygen due to a reduction in hemoglobin. It occurs when the hemoglobin concentration, or the number of red blood cells, has dropped below normal. *Iron-deficiency anemia* is the most common type of anemia, but there are other, more serious types of anemia, such as hemolytic anemia, caused by an abnormal breakdown of red blood cells, and aplastic anemia, caused by a disorder of the bone marrow that interferes with its production of red blood cells.



Red blood cells have a particular life span, don't they?



Yep. The life span of a red blood cell is roughly 120 days. When they approach the end of their life spans, red blood cells are broken down and recycled by the liver and spleen. Figure 5-5 shows how heme becomes bilirubin and is excreted in bile. Iron is removed from heme and stored for later use.

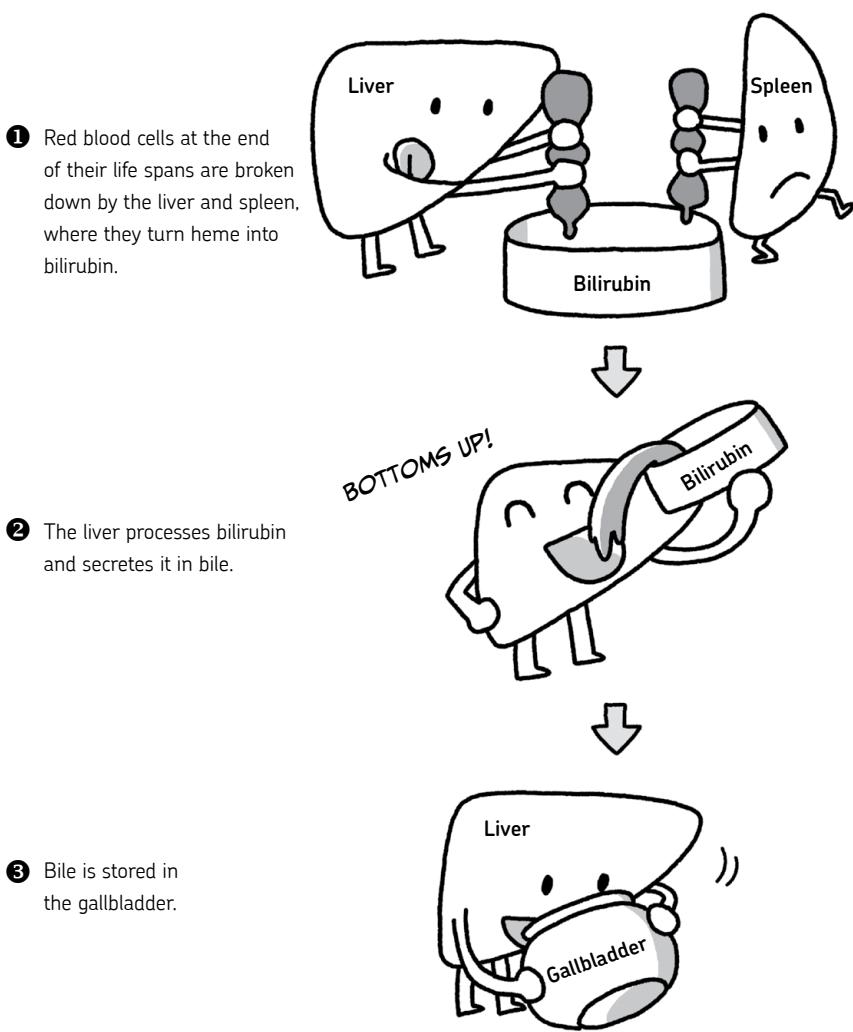


Figure 5-5: Heme being broken down into bilirubin, which is then secreted in bile.

### BLOOD FUN FACTS

Blood is classified into the ABO blood types according to *antigens* in the membranes of red blood cells. The antigen for each type is like a special signature, and the immune system will attack all cells with antigens that don't match the antigens corresponding to the person's own blood type. That's why you can receive blood only from someone with the same blood type as you in a blood transfusion. The most common blood types are O and A, while AB is rarer.



## WHITE BLOOD CELLS

Blood contains approximately 5000 to 8000 *white blood cells* per microliter. White blood cells act as the body's defense forces. One of their jobs is to repel foreign enemies such as invading bacteria and viruses.

White blood cells are broadly divided into granulocytes, monocytes, and lymphocytes, as shown in Figure 5-6. These are further classified into numerous types, each with different characteristics and responsibilities. All are extremely skillful at cooperating to repel invaders.

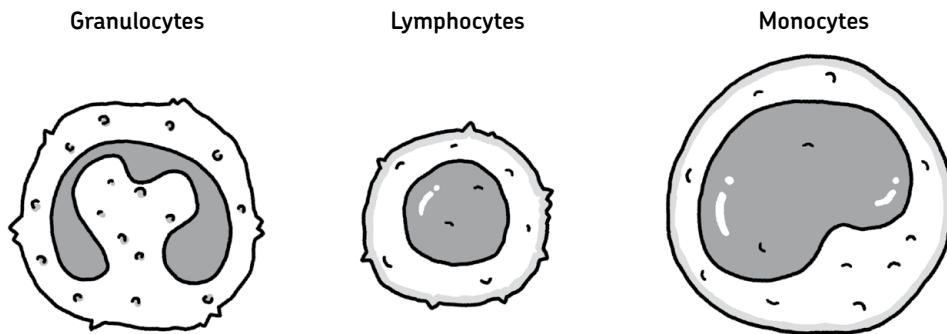


Figure 5-6: Types of white blood cells

*Granulocytes* are characterized by intracellular particles called *granules*. The three types of granulocytes are neutrophils, eosinophils, and basophils. The majority of granulocytes are neutrophils, which destroy any existing invaders by engulfing and devouring them. This is called *phagocytosis*. The pus that sometimes exudes from a wound partly consists of neutrophils that have performed phagocytosis and died. There are relatively few eosinophils and basophils, but these types of granulocytes contribute to phagocytosis and allergic reactions.

*Lymphocytes*—which include B cells, T cells, and NK cells (or natural killer cells)—are major actors in the immune system. The T cells direct the immune response, and B cells prepare and release the appropriate antibodies. Along with the NK cells, the T cells also destroy any infected cells.

*Monocytes* are large, round cells when they are found in blood vessels. However, when they move through the blood vessel wall into tissue, they change shape and become macrophages. *Macrophages* extend tentacles to grab and devour invaders. This is another form of phagocytosis.

### Specialist B Cells

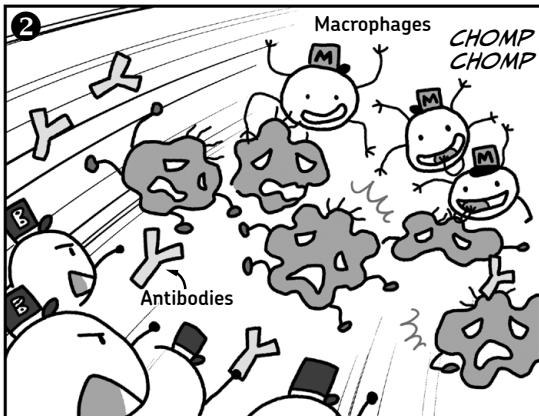
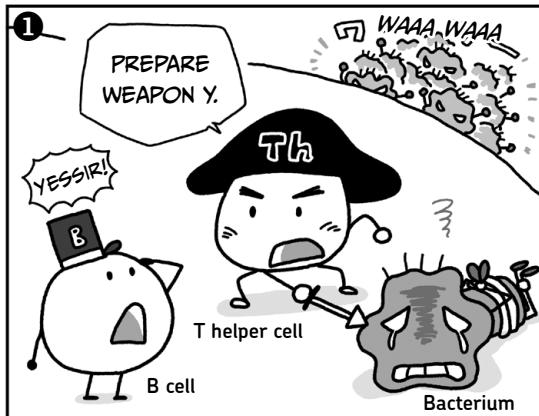
Once a foreign enemy like bacteria invades, B cells remember information about it. So if that substance invades a second time, the body can quickly identify it and release a large number of antibodies to repel it. However, a single B cell can only remember a single foreign enemy so millions of B cells exist in the human body to fight off the many potential attackers.



How do our bodies repel foreign substances?



When a foreign substance invades, neutrophils and macrophages (which can be thought of as scouting parties) rush in first and voraciously devour them. The macrophages then present the fragments of the devoured enemy to the T helper cells, (which are the “commanding officers”) to say, “This is what we’re facing!” Then the general offensive begins (see Figure 5-7).



Once the macrophages present information about the invading forces to the T helper cells, the T helper cells instruct the B cells to prepare antibodies designed to fight that specific foreign substance.



The T helper cells order the killer T cells to destroy any cells that were infected or damaged by the foreign substance.

Once the foreign substance is entirely eliminated, the suppressor T cells call a stop to the defensive response.

Figure 5-7: The white blood cell defense forces

### An Allergy Is an Overreaction of the Immune System

An *allergy* can be thought of as a runaway immune function. Instead of repelling invading viruses or bacteria, the immune system is reacting to a substance that is not actually harmful, such as food or pollen.

Food and pollen are common causes of allergic reactions. Allergy to pollen, often called hay fever, results in nasal inflammation or conjunctivitis. Bronchial asthma and atopic dermatitis (also known as *eczema*) are also common allergic reactions.

The prevalence of allergies is increasing in both in adults and children. Although environmental factors (such as diet, reduced physical activity, better hygiene, or even changes in home heating and ventilation systems) are thought to be involved with the increase in these conditions, the actual reason is not yet known.

## PLATELETS



A *platelet* is a cell involved in hemostasis, which is the process that stops bleeding. It has no nucleus and is produced in a bone marrow megakaryocyte (meaning *large nucleus cell*). One microliter of blood contains approximately 300,000 platelets. This might sound like a lot, but it is very few compared to the number of red blood cells. When blood is centrifuged, the platelet layer is extremely thin.

When a blood vessel is damaged and bleeding occurs, the platelets are the first to act. First, they gather at the damaged location to form a temporary plug. Then the platelets burst open and release substances that speed up hemostasis. Those substances react and eventually turn fibrinogen (a substance contained in blood plasma) in the blood into a fibrous substance called *fibrin*, which forms a mesh at the site of the wound. Red blood cells become caught in the mesh and clump together to form a robust dam to stop the bleeding. This clump is called a *blood clot* (Figure 5-8).

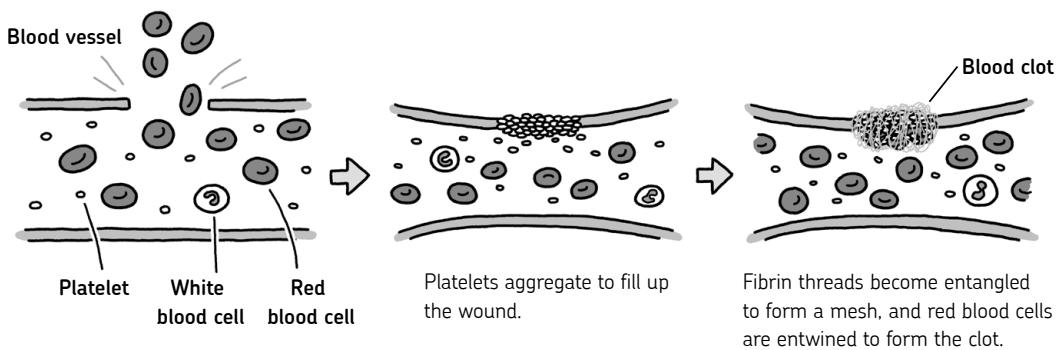


Figure 5-8: Closing a wound through hemostasis



Applying pressure is an effective way to stop bleeding, isn't it?



Yes, pressure constricts the capillaries and blood vessels, slowing down the bleeding. This gives the blood time to clot. You can sometimes stop bleeding from capillaries or slender veins just by applying pressure.

Blood that's been drawn naturally solidifies just like blood that's released by bleeding. The solidification of blood is called *coagulation*. During an examination of drawn blood, chemicals are often mixed into the blood to prevent it from solidifying. Blood coagulates because blood plasma itself has clotting properties, as shown in Figure 5-9.

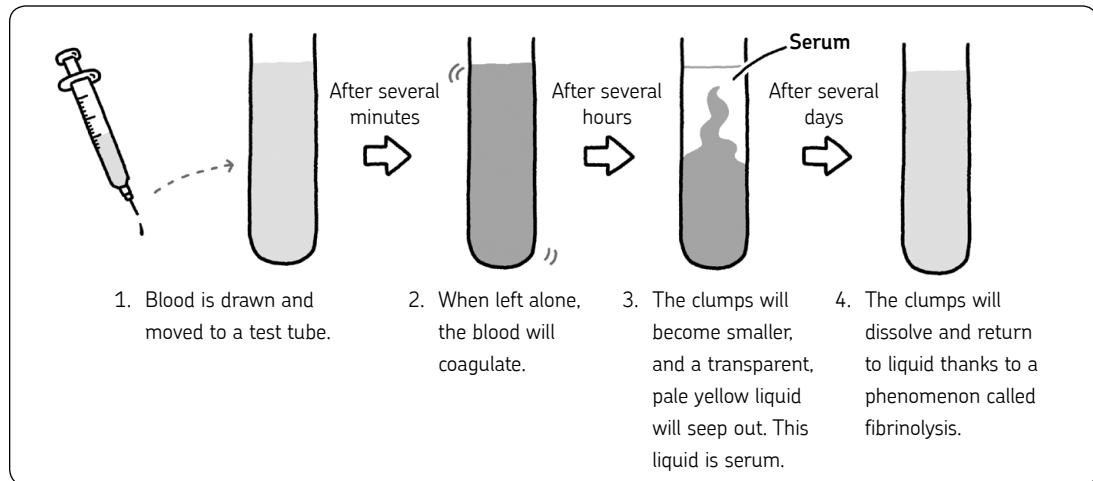


Figure 5-9: Coagulation in drawn blood

#### DID YOU KNOW?

After blood coagulates, a process called *fibrinolysis* will eventually break down and dissolve the blood clots. This mechanism prevents blood clots from spreading and causing problems in the body.

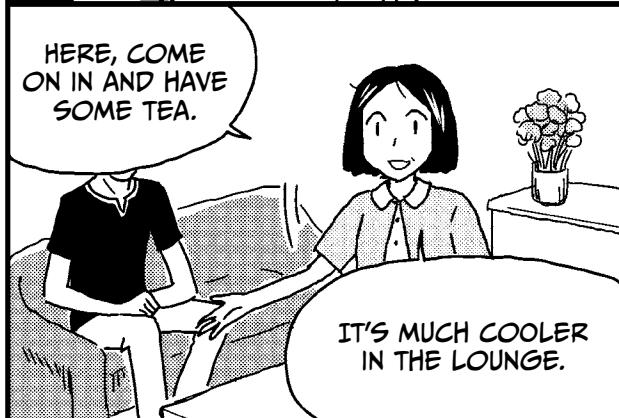
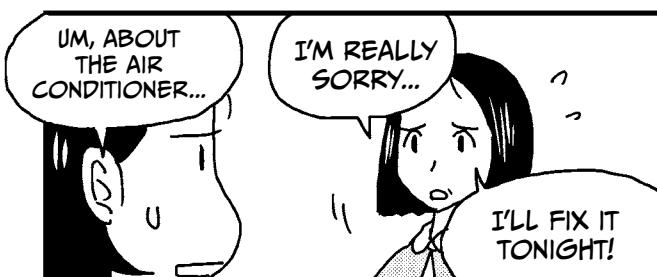
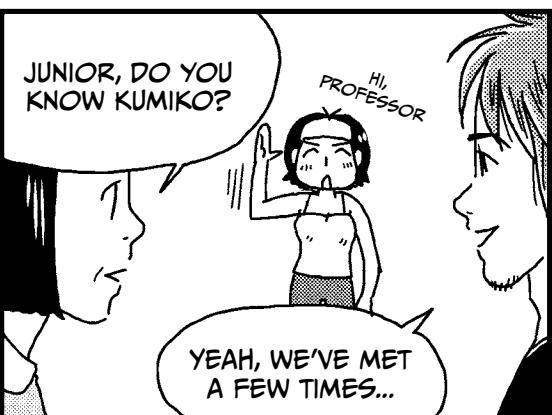
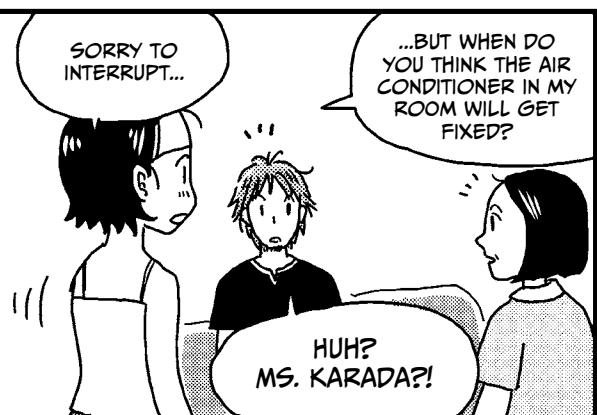
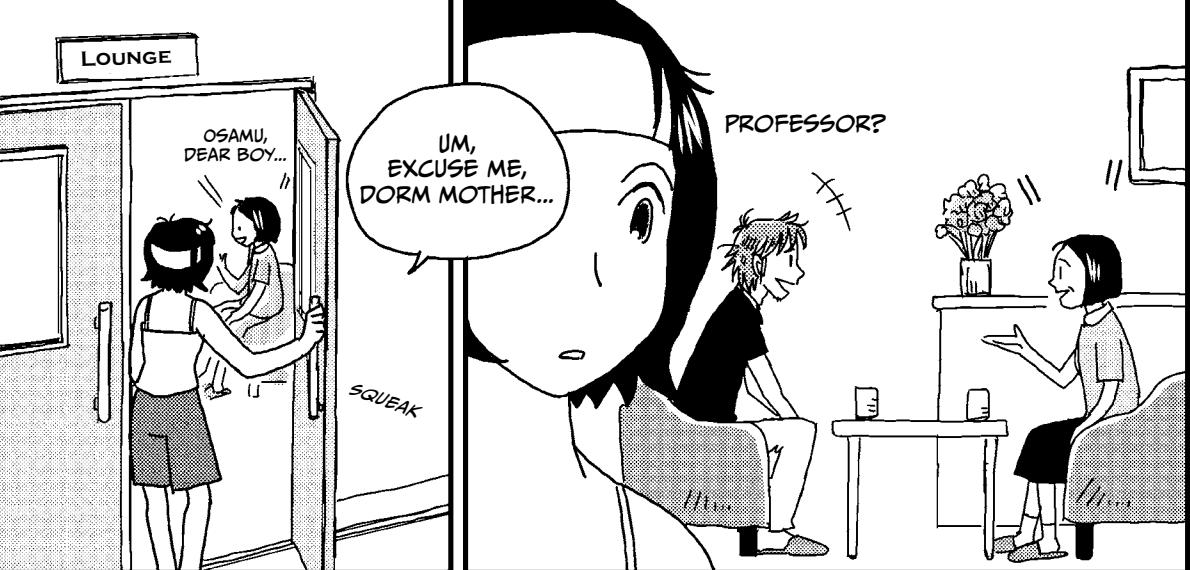


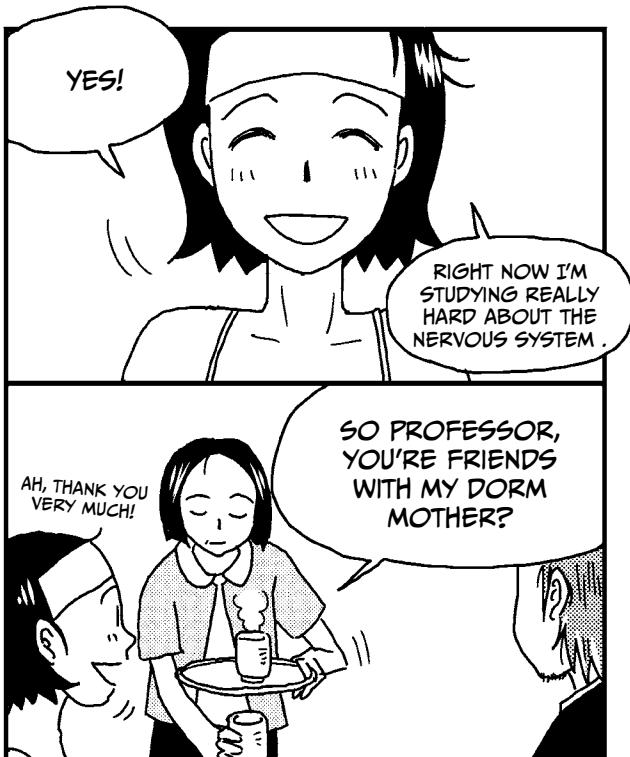
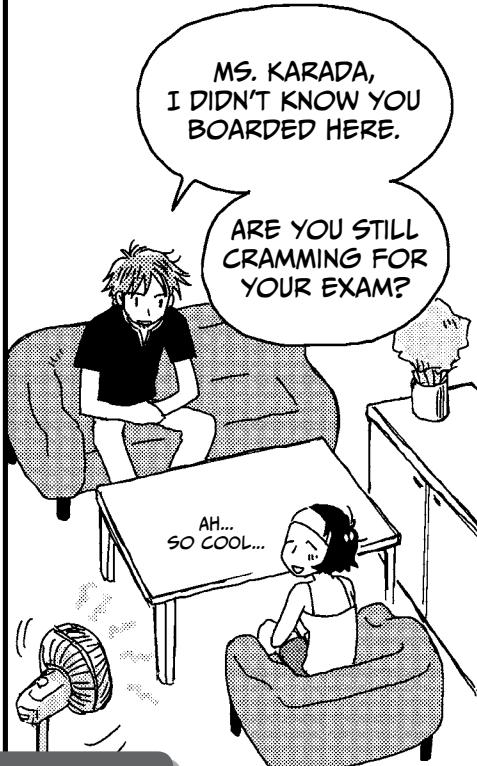
6

# THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM

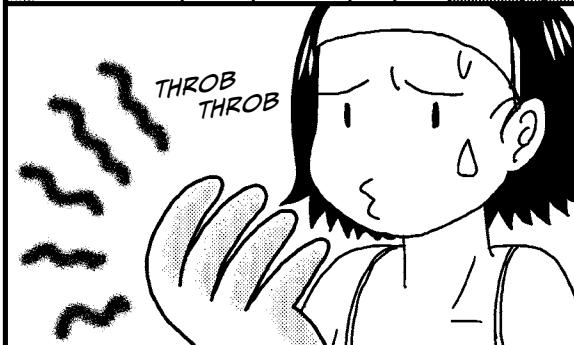
# TRANSMITTING ELECTRICAL SIGNALS AT 120 METERS PER SECOND

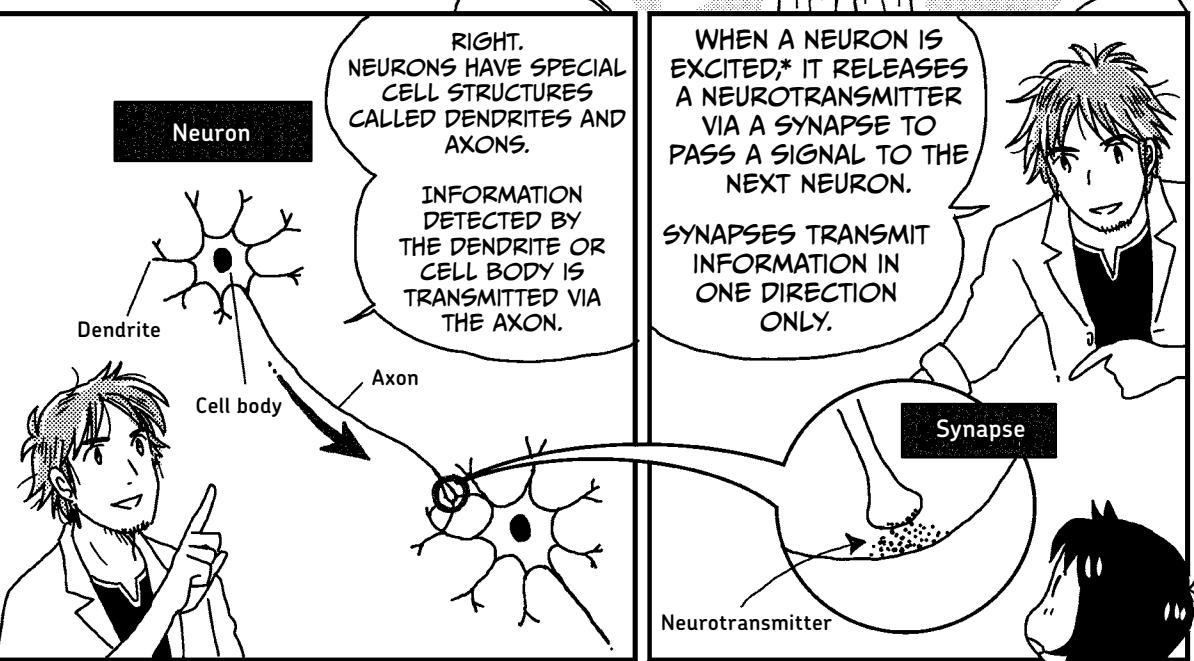
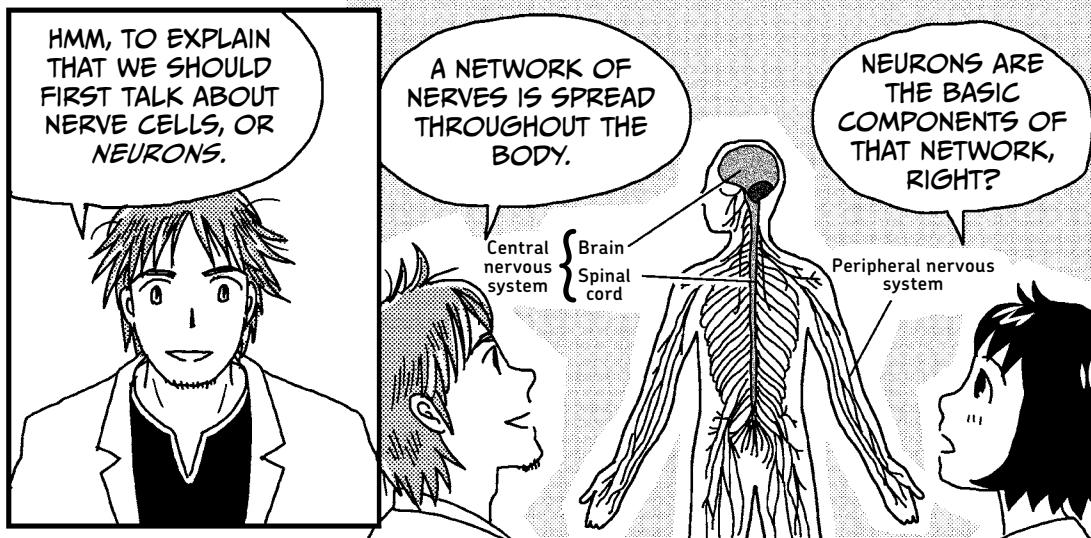
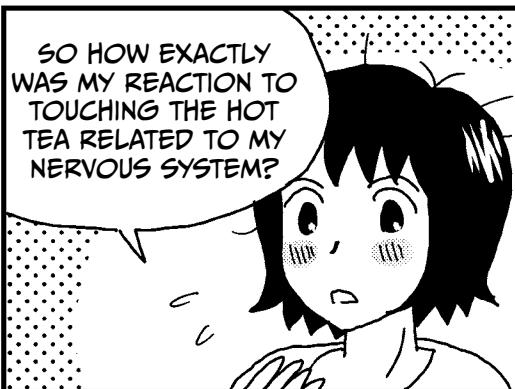
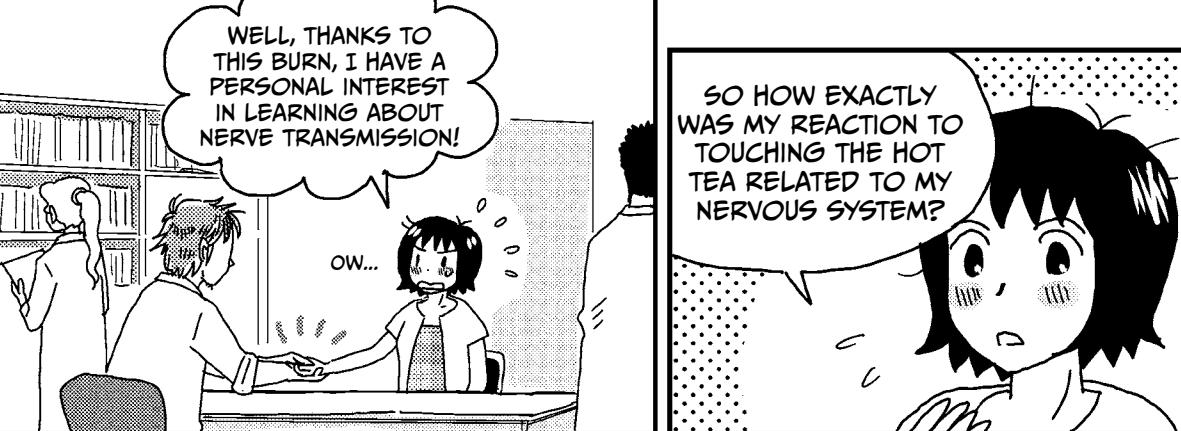






## NEURONS





\* WHEN A NEURON IS STIMULATED, AN ELECTRICAL SIGNAL IS SENT DOWN THE AXON TO THE SYNAPSE AT THE END, WHICH THEN RELEASES CHEMICAL NEUROTRANSMITTERS TO STIMULATE THE NEXT NERVE. IF STIMULATION REACHES A CERTAIN THRESHOLD, THE NERVE ACTIVATES, TRANSMITTING THE SIGNAL. IF THE THRESHOLD ISN'T MET, THE NERVE REMAINS INACTIVE.

# THE NERVOUS SYSTEM



BUT THESE NEURONS AREN'T CONNECTED IN ONE LONG LINE, ARE THEY?

DON'T THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS FORM A COMPLEX NETWORK IN THE BODY?

THAT'S RIGHT.



THAT NETWORK OF NERVES IN THE BODY FORMS THE PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM, WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO THREE TYPES OF NERVES.

Sensory Nerves



Recognize the sensation of intense heat

Motor Nerves



Issue the instruction to "pull away your hand!"

Autonomic Nerves



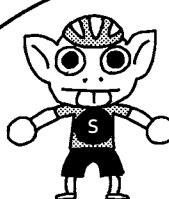
Make you feel startled and increase your heart rate

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

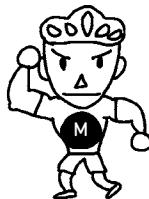
THE INFORMATION PASSED ALONG BY THE PERIPHERAL NERVES THEN ARRIVES AT THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM...

WHICH CONSISTS OF THE BRAIN AND THE SPINAL CORD.

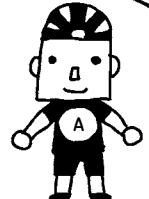
Peripheral Nervous System



Sensory nerves



Motor nerves



Autonomic nerves

YOU SURE HAVE BEEN STUDYING, HAVEN'T YOU!

I BET YOU'VE CREATED SOME NEW NEURAL NETWORKS WITH ALL THAT CRAMMING!\*

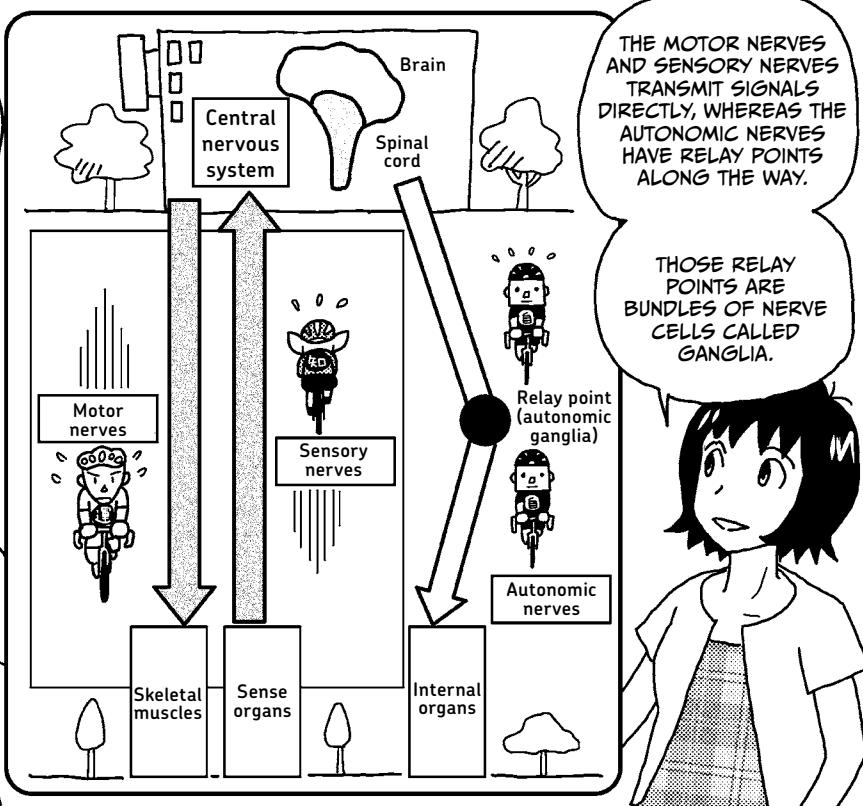
I DOUBT IT. IT'S SO HOT, I THINK MY BRAIN IS MELTING AWAY...

SO THE PERIPHERAL NERVES ARE A COLLECTION OF NERVE FIBERS, RIGHT?

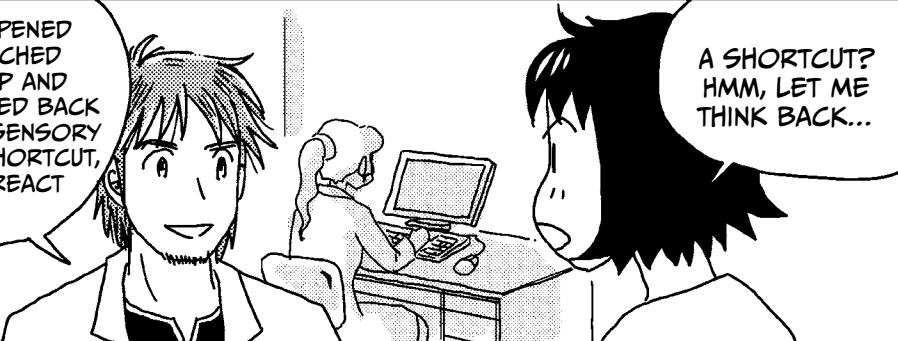
I THINK I UNDERSTAND THIS NOW...

\* AS WE LEARN, THE BRAIN ADAPTS BY MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SYNAPSES, RATHER THAN BY CREATING NEW NEURONS. AS A RULE, NEURONS ARE HIGHLY SPECIALIZED AND DO NOT UNDERGO CELL DIVISION.

THE THREE KINDS OF PERIPHERAL NERVES OPERATE LIKE THIS.

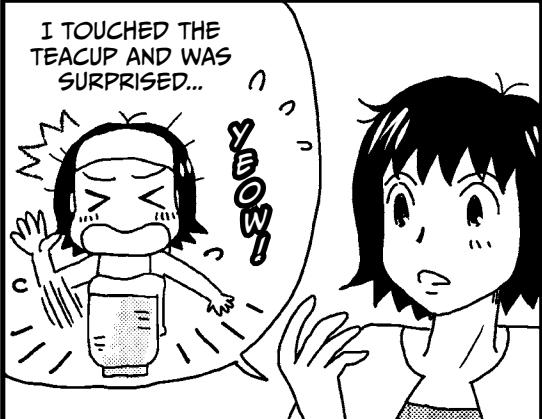


NOW, WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU TOUCHED THE HOT TEACUP AND IMMEDIATELY PULLED BACK YOUR HAND? THE SENSORY SIGNAL TOOK A SHORTCUT, TO MAKE YOU REACT QUICKER.



A SHORTCUT?  
HMM, LET ME  
THINK BACK...

I TOUCHED THE TEACUP AND WAS SURPRISED...



ACTUALLY, NO.

YOUR CONSCIOUS FEELING OF "SURPRISE" HAPPENED LATER.



FIRST, YOUR FINGERTIPS PERCEIVED AN EXTREMELY HIGH TEMPERATURE. THAT STIMULUS WAS TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE SENSORY NERVES AND TO THE SPINAL CORD.

1



Spinal cord

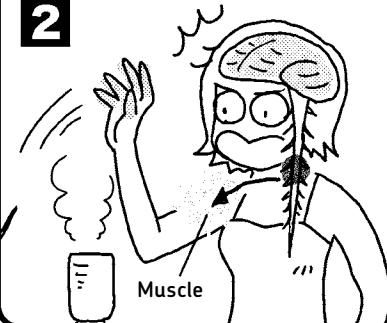
SO THAT'S WHEN I EXPERIENCED THE HEAT?



WHEN THE STIMULUS ENTERS THE SPINAL CORD, THE INFORMATION TAKES A SHORTCUT! INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR DIRECTIONS FROM THE BRAIN, THE SPINAL CORD TRANSMITS THE INSTRUCTION "CONTRACT!" STRAIGHT TO THE MOTOR NERVES, WHICH MAKES YOUR MUSCLES PULL YOUR HAND AWAY.

THIS IS CALLED A SPINAL REFLEX.

2



SO AT THIS STAGE, THE HEAT SENSATION HAS NOT YET BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE BRAIN?



A SPINAL REFLEX OCCURS IN RESPONSE TO A STIMULUS THAT IS DANGEROUS TO THE HUMAN BODY, SUCH AS PAIN FROM A BURN.

RIGHT.

THAT MAKES SENSE.  
IT'S LIKE A DIRECT HOTLINE FOR A DANGER SIGNAL.

THEN...

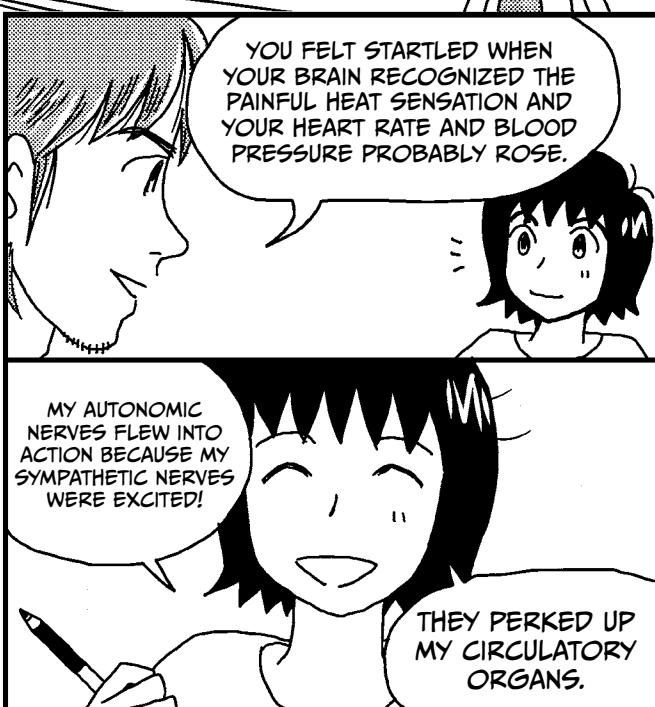
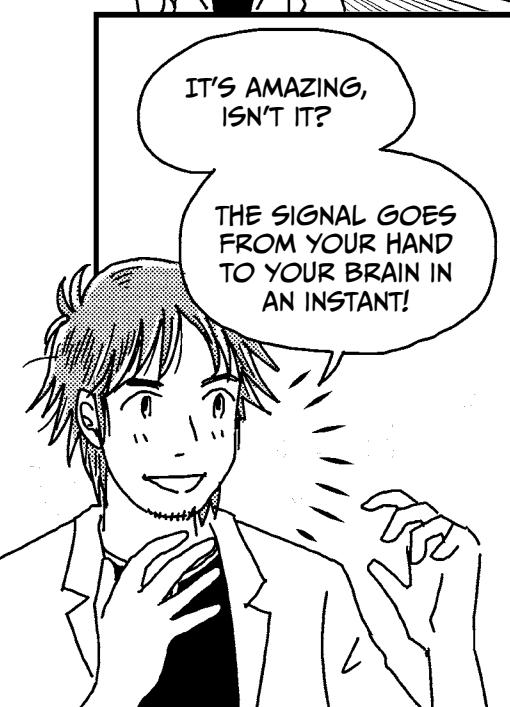
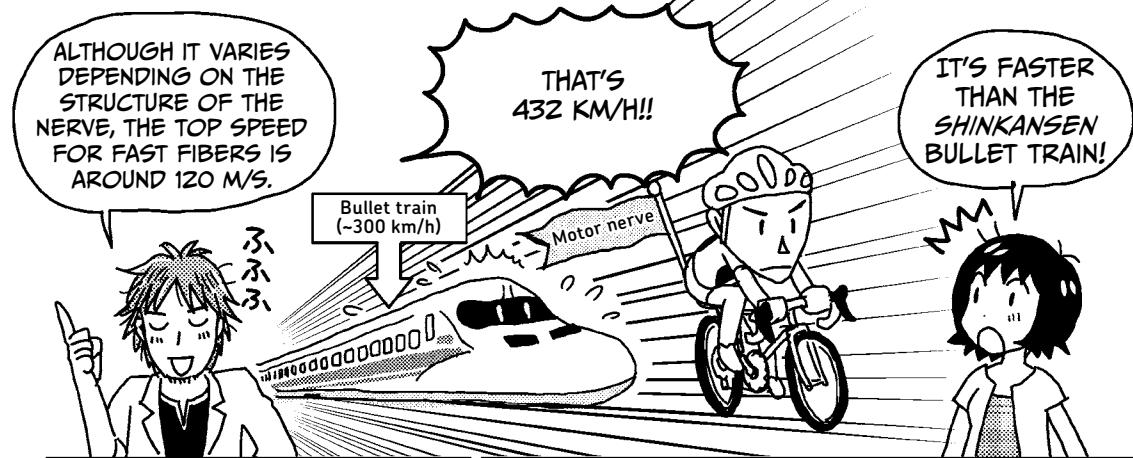
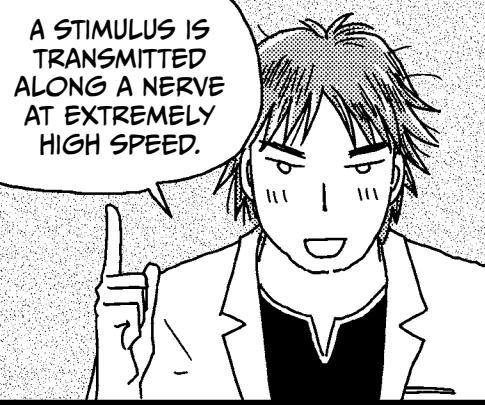
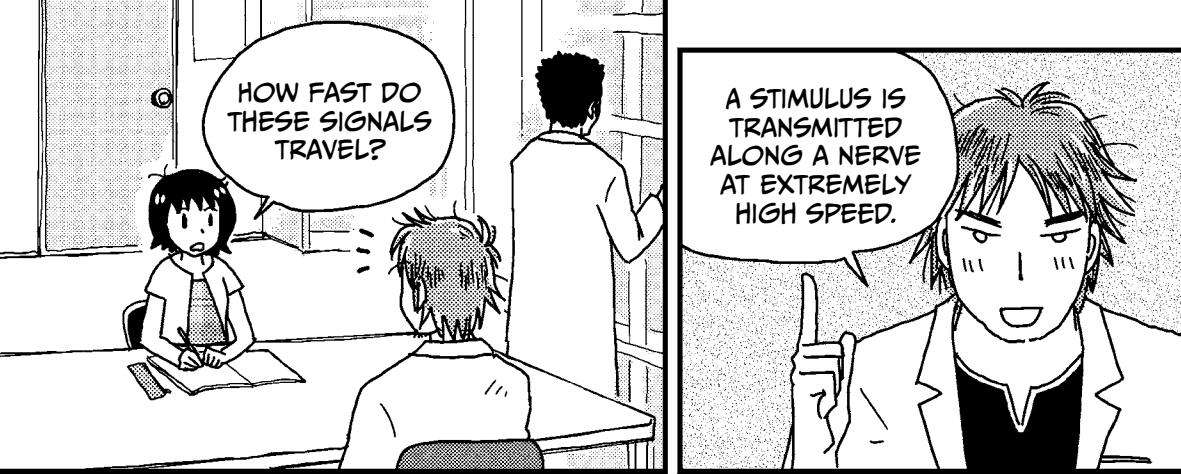
3 Cerebrum

A cross-section diagram of a human head showing the brain. An arrow points from the spinal cord up to the cerebrum. A speech bubble from another character says "THE SENSORY INFORMATION ARRIVED AT YOUR CEREBRUM AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT YOU PULLED AWAY YOUR HAND."

THE SENSORY INFORMATION ARRIVED AT YOUR CEREBRUM AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT YOU PULLED AWAY YOUR HAND.

THIS IS WHEN YOU CONSCIOUSLY RECOGNIZED THE HEAT AND PAIN.

I SEE.





YOUR CEREBRUM ISSUED A COMMAND TO LOOK AT THE HAND THAT RECEIVED THE HOT STIMULUS.

TO CARRY OUT THIS ACTION, YOU MOVED YOUR HAND, FACE, AND EYES.

YOUR RETINAS SENSED THE RED APPEARANCE OF YOUR HAND AND DELIVERED THIS INFORMATION THROUGH THE NERVES TO THE VISUAL CORTEX OF YOUR CEREBRUM. THEN YOUR CEREBRUM STARTED TO PUT THE INFORMATION TOGETHER: "MY HAND TURNED RED FROM THE HEAT OF THE TEACUP."



THE CEREBRUM USES PAST EXPERIENCE AND INFORMATION TO RESPOND TO THE SITUATION—IN THIS CASE, IT ISSUES A COMMAND TO "BLOW ON YOUR HAND TO COOL IT."



YOUR FINGERTIPS AND EYES CONTINUED TO SEND SENSORY INFORMATION TO THE CEREBRUM...

PUFF PUFF

THE CEREBRUM REALIZED THAT YOUR HAND WASN'T HOT ANYMORE.

IT'S NO LONGER HOT.

SO YOU STOPPED BLOWING ON YOUR HAND.

THE ACTIVITY OF THE SYMPATHETIC NERVES RECEDED, YOUR HEART RATE AND BLOOD PRESSURE FELL, AND YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSION SOFTENED.

TIME TO RELAX!

AH...

AND THIS BARELY TOUCHES ON THE COUNTLESS ACTIVITIES THAT ARE COORDINATED BY THE NERVOUS SYSTEM ALL THE TIME!

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM RESPONDED IN SUCH A COMPLEX WAY, WITH A MIXTURE OF COMPLETELY AUTOMATIC REACTIONS AND MORE RATIONAL DECISIONS BASED ON MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCE...

AND IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST!

THE HUMAN BRAIN REALLY IS AMAZING, ISN'T IT?

AND THE MORE YOU LEARN, THE MORE POWERFUL IT BECOMES!

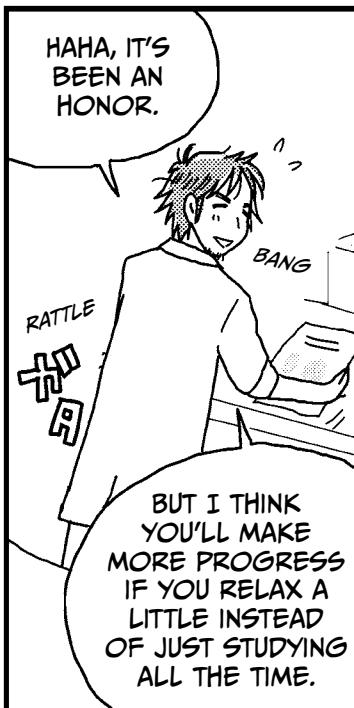
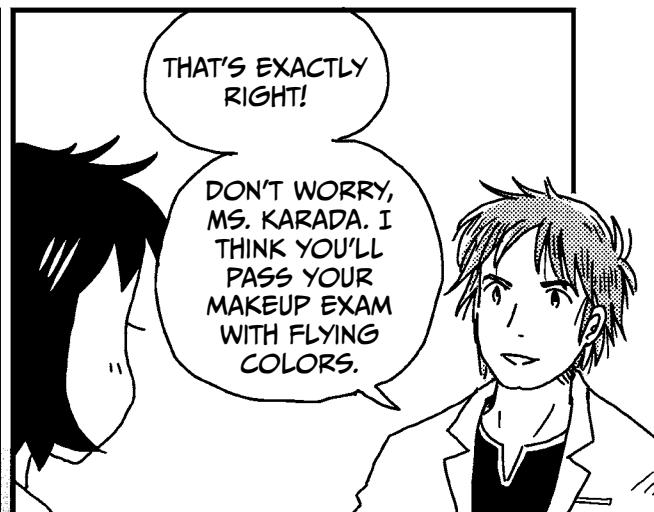
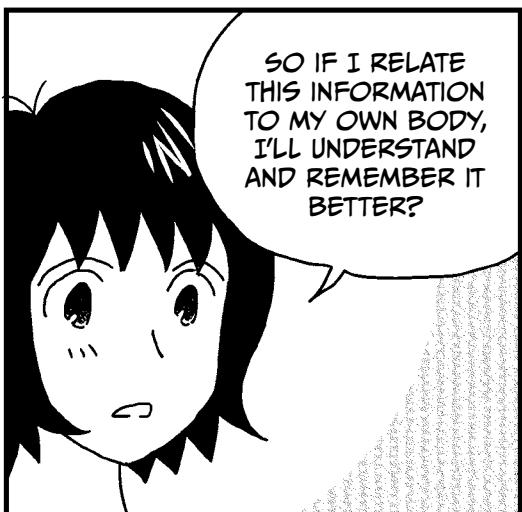
I HOPE MY BRAIN IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO PASS THIS MAKEUP TEST.

MAYBE IF I MEMORIZE ENOUGH OF MY TEXTBOOK...

UHH, NOT SO FAST.

YOU'RE BOUND TO RETAIN SOME INFORMATION THROUGH INDISCRIMINATE, ROTE MEMORIZATION, BUT YOU'LL REMEMBER IT BETTER IF YOU RELATE THE INFORMATION TO A MEANINGFUL SETTING OR EXPERIENCE.





# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE NERVOUS SYSTEM!



You already know that the nervous system is divided into the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system. The nerves in the brain and spinal cord (the central nervous system) relay and collect information, make decisions, and issue instructions. Together, they can be thought of as the main control center of the body. Since the brain and spinal cord are such crucial organs, they are enveloped by meninges (membranes) and float in cerebrospinal fluid to protect them from impact. The brain collects and organizes all of our thoughts, emotions, perceptions, and behaviors, so let's begin with a discussion of the brain.

## PARTS OF THE BRAIN



When you hear the word *brain*, you may think of the cerebrum—the main mass of the brain that is found under the skull—but that's not really all there is. The brain is made up of the cerebrum, diencephalon (interbrain), mesencephalon (midbrain), pons, medulla oblongata, and cerebellum, as shown in Figure 6-1.

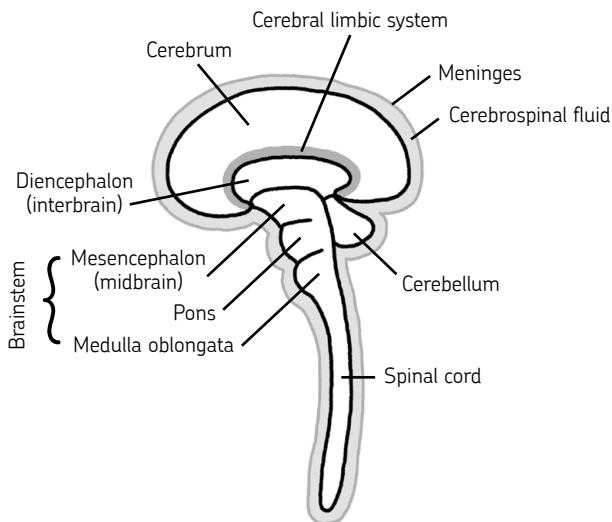


Figure 6-1: The central nervous system

The mesencephalon (midbrain), pons, and medulla oblongata are also called the *brainstem*. The brainstem is the innermost part of the brain and is responsible for the essential activities of life, such as respiration and circulation.

The part of the brain just above the brainstem, called the *cerebral limbic system*, is responsible for instinctive functions, such as appetite, sexual desire, pleasure, discomfort, and emotions.

The diencephalon (interbrain), between the cerebrum and the brainstem, includes the thalamus, hypothalamus, and pituitary gland. It functions as the control center of the autonomic nervous system and endocrine system.

## STRUCTURE OF THE BRAIN



If you take a cross section of the brain, you'll see it divided into gray matter and white matter, as shown in Figure 6-2. The outer layer of gray matter is more formally called the *cerebral cortex*. It appears gray because of the neural cell bodies there, whereas the white inner layer is mostly made up of nerve fibers (axons). Those axons are white because they contain more fat tissue, which helps insulate the axons so that they can transmit signals more quickly.

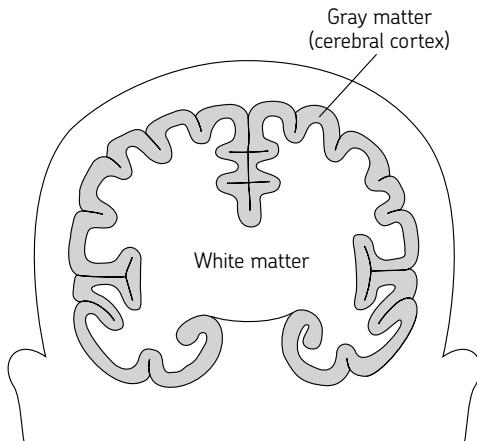


Figure 6-2: Cross section of the brain

The outermost layer of the cerebral cortex is called the *neocortex*. *Neo-* means “new,” as the neocortex is the most evolutionarily recent addition to the brain. The neocortex accounts for about three-fourths of the human brain’s mass.

The neocortex is responsible for the advanced cognitive functions that most distinguish human thinking from that of other animals. Worrying about failing an exam and studying for a retest are both jobs of the neocortex. Mastering the knowledge and skills needed to be a registered nurse, assessing patients and planning their care, and enjoying your time with friends are also all jobs of the neocortex.

Notice in Figure 6-2 how the surface of the cerebral cortex is folded into many wrinkles. This dramatically increases its surface area so that a lot more neocortex can fit inside the skull. Our high capacity for intelligence owes a lot to the wrinkles in our brain.

In addition to the neocortex, the cerebral cortex contains the *paleocortex* and the *archicortex*. The paleocortex and archicortex developed much earlier in the evolutionary timeline, and they are responsible for basic functions that we have in common with other animals, such as appetite, sexual desire, and the sensation of pain. Figure 6-3 shows how the brainstem, paleocortex/archicortex, and neocortex stack up across snakes, dogs, and humans.

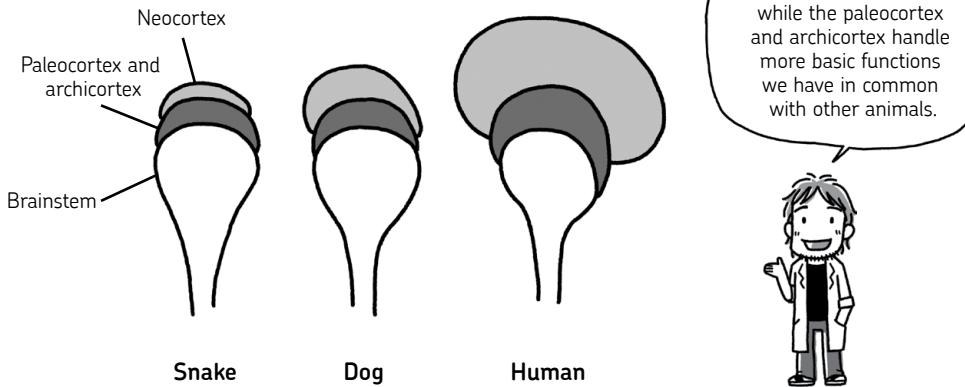


Figure 6-3: Differences between the cortices of animals and humans

Getting back to the neocortex, different areas of this structure are responsible for different functions, such as vision, speaking, walking, running, other motor skills, and so on. This is called *localization* of brain functions, or *functional specialization*. Figure 6-4 shows the most important areas of functional specialization. The central sulcus marked in Figure 6-4 is a deep fold that runs across the middle of the brain, roughly from ear to ear. This feature separates the frontal and parietal lobes, and the motor and sensory cortices.

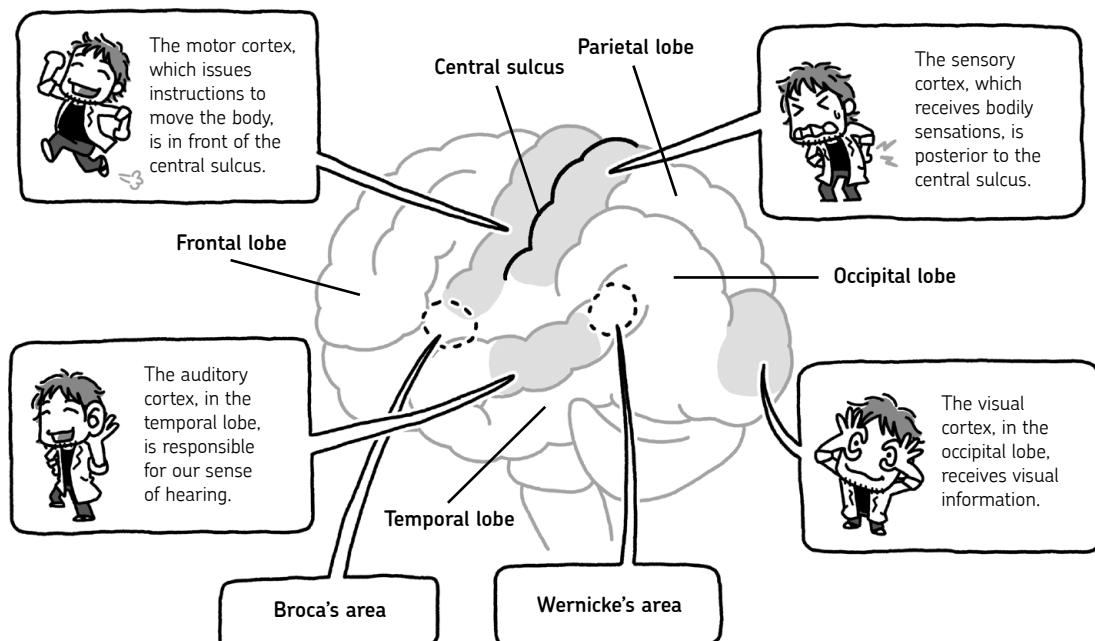


Figure 6-4: Functional specialization of the neocortex

## BRAIN FUN FACTS

The left hemisphere of the cerebral cortex is responsible for movement and sensation on the right side of the body, and the right hemisphere is responsible for movement and sensation on the left side of the body.



Functions of the motor cortex and sensory cortex are further divided, with regions closer to the top of the brain responsible for the feet and regions closer to the temporal part of the brain (the side) responsible for the face and head.



So does this mean that even when I'm just having a conversation, several regions are performing different functions at the same time?



That's right. Let's try to think of which areas are required to handle language.

The methods we use to interpret language include reading characters and understanding sounds as words. Since each of these methods uses different sense organs and different types of information, separate locations are responsible for them.

The main area responsible for understanding language is *Wernicke's area*. However, when we speak we must shape the words by moving our mouth and tongue and jaw and so on. The area responsible for these functions is *Broca's area*. Both of these speech centers are in the left cerebral hemisphere. When brain damage causes problems with language, the symptoms differ depending on where the damage occurs. For example, if Broca's area is damaged, a person may not be able to speak coherently, or at all, even if the person still understands other people's speech.



The cerebrum issues instructions for telling the body to move. But isn't the cerebellum involved with movement as well?



Yes, the cerebellum coordinates your movements. It is below the cerebrum and behind the brainstem, compares the movement instructions issued by the cerebral cortex with the movements you actually make and issues signals to fine-tune the movement. As you repeatedly practice a movement, you become more skillful at it. This is the result of fine-tuning by the cerebellum.

## BRAIN INJURIES



What about when the brain stops functioning? What's the difference between a vegetative state and brain death?



In a vegetative state certain parts of the brain are still functioning, whereas brain death is an irreversible state in which all brain functions are lost. This includes involuntary functions that keep the body alive, so when brain death occurs, the body dies too.

This is because not only is the person unable to speak or eat, but spontaneous respiration ceases and the heart quickly stops. When someone is in a vegetative state, on the other hand, the brainstem is still alive, and therefore respiration can occur and the heart continues beating. However, the person is not conscious and cannot respond. Figure 6-5 shows the difference in the brain between these two conditions.

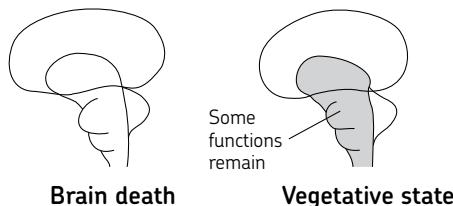


Figure 6-5: Difference between brain death and a vegetative state

The brain is very susceptible to oxygen deprivation. If respiration stops and the supply of oxygen is cut off, cells will begin to sustain damage in just 3 to 4 minutes. This is why it's so important to begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation as soon as possible if someone suffers cardiac arrest and the heart is unable to send oxygen-carrying blood to the brain.

### BRAIN FUN FACTS

The brain consumes a large amount of oxygen because it constantly burns glucose as an energy source. In fact, glucose is normally the only energy source of the brain; although if glucose levels are too low, the brain may use molecules called ketone bodies as an alternative energy source.



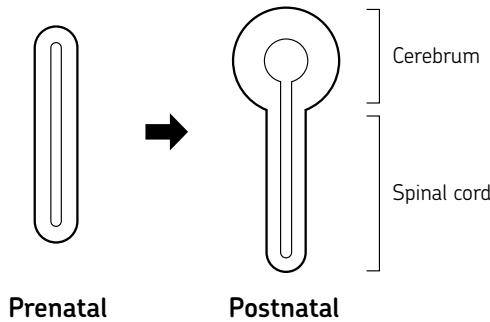
## THE SPINAL CORD



The main job of the spinal cord is to relay instructions issued from the brain to peripheral nerves and relay information from peripheral nerves to the brain. However, it has other important functions as well.

The *spinal cord* is an elliptically shaped cord approximately 1 centimeter thick extending from the bottom of the brain through the spinal column to the lumbar (lower back) region. When a baby first develops in the womb, the spinal column and brain start off as a single hollow tube. As this tube grows, the cells at the tip (head) increase and become the cerebral cortex (Figure 6-6), and the rest become the spinal cord.

Inside the spinal cord, nerve cells and nerve fibers form a bundle. Remember from earlier (see page 122), that neurons consist of nerve fibers (dendrites and axons) and cell bodies. Like the brain, the spinal cord is divided into white matter, which is mostly nerve fibers, and gray matter, which contains mostly cell bodies. But in the spinal cord, the pattern is reversed—the white matter forms the outer layer, and the gray matter is at the center of the cord.



Prenatal                      Postnatal

Figure 6-6: The cerebrum and spinal cord develop in the postnatal period.

In the spinal cord, the pathways for sending information and receiving information are separate so that sensory information and instructions from the brain do not interfere with each other, as shown in Figure 6-7.

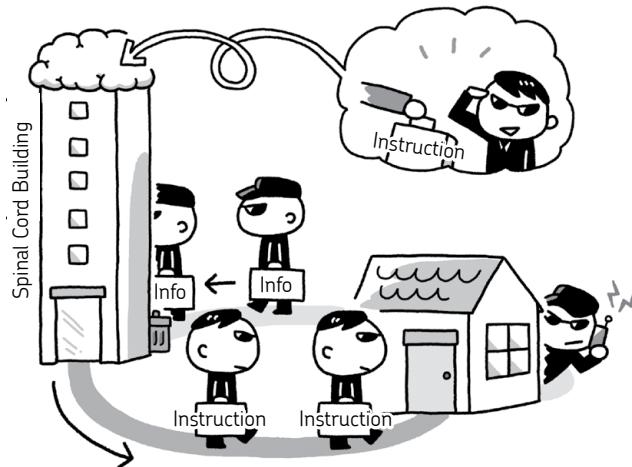


Figure 6-7: How information is routed through the spinal cord

## PATHWAYS THROUGH THE BODY



How exactly does the spinal cord relay instructions and information between the brain and peripheral nerves?



I'll explain this using Figure 6-8. Nerve fibers that descend along the spinal cord deliver the instructions from the brain to nerve cells in the gray matter in the front of the spinal cord (called the *ventral root* or *anterior root*). Spinal nerves extending from the anterior root deliver the instruction to the peripheral parts of the body. Meanwhile, nerve fibers that receive sensory information from the peripheral parts of the body enter the rear of the spinal cord (the *dorsal root* or *posterior root* of a spinal nerve) and deliver the information to the gray matter nerve cells there. Then those nerve fibers deliver the information

to the brain. All of these signals are electrically transmitted along these various nerve fibers by way of action potential impulses. We can also call this process of propagating action potential firing.

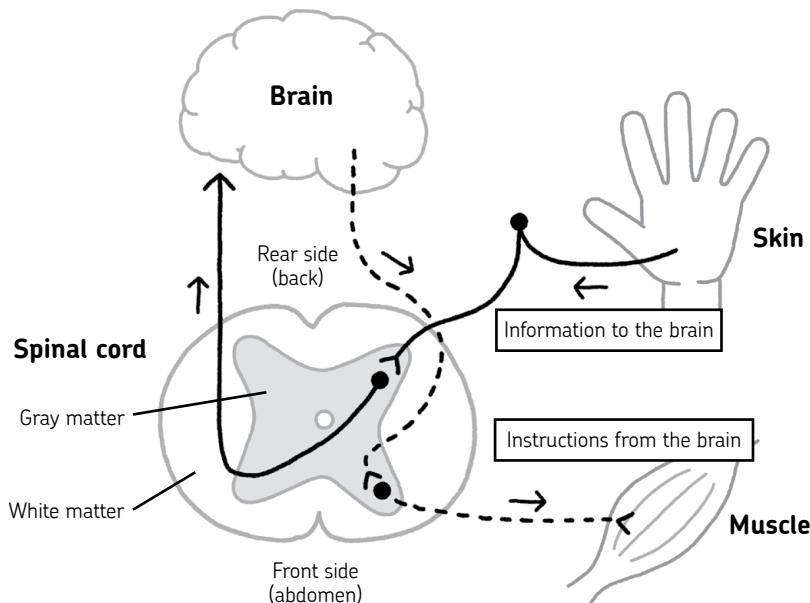


Figure 6-8: Nerve cell paths to and from the spinal cord

The nerves in the white matter of the spinal cord are separated according to their function. The *efferent* paths that transmit instructions from the brain and the *afferent* paths that transmit sensations to the brain are precisely divided. Those sets of fibers are called *conduction pathways*.

Most conduction pathways cross over between the left and right sides somewhere in the central nervous system. That's why the left hemisphere of the cerebral cortex is responsible for the right side of the body and the right hemisphere is responsible for the left side of the body.



So what kind of route does a signal take during a spinal reflex, like the one that caused me to pull my hand away the instant I touched the hot teacup?



Ah yes, in that case the signal takes a shortcut. An impulse indicating "hot!" was sent to your spinal cord. Since this is an *afferent* pathway, the impulse entered from the rear of the spinal cord. Normally, the impulse continues along an afferent pathway to another nerve cell, which passes the information to the brain. But instead, it took a shortcut through the spinal cord (Figure 6-9), and the information was delivered straight to the nerve cells of the *efferent* pathway on the front side. This caused your arm muscles to contract, pulling your hand away before you were even aware of what had happened.

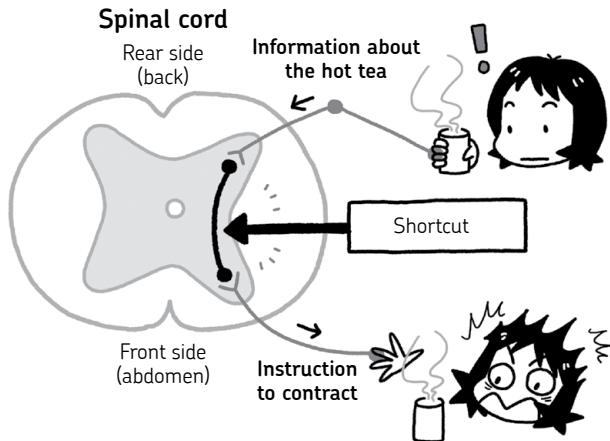


Figure 6-9: Spinal reflex shortcuts

### DID YOU KNOW?

After birth, the spinal cord lengthens as the spinal column (vertebrae) develops. However, since bone growth outpaces spinal cord growth, in adults the area below the lumbar vertebrae contains only spinal fluid.



## CRANIAL AND SPINAL NERVES



The brain and spinal cord form the central nervous system, and the nerves that link those central nerves with the peripheral parts of the body form the peripheral nervous system. Earlier, I told you that the peripheral nerves are classified into motor nerves that transmit movement instructions from the brain, sensory nerves that transmit sensory information to the brain from the peripheral parts of the body, and autonomic nerves that control internal organs. However, these nerves can also be divided along anatomical lines into cranial nerves stemming from the brain and spinal nerves stemming from the spinal cord (see Figure 6-10). The spinal nerves and brain nerves, along with the association nerves (which carry impulses between motor and sensory nerves), form the *somatic nervous system*.

There are 12 pairs of *cranial nerves*, each of which has a name and number. Most of our cranial nerves are either motor nerves that send movement instructions to the face, tongue, eyeballs, and so on or sensory nerves that transmit the five sensations from the head and skin. The *vagus nerve* is distinct from either of these, however. It branches down from the neck to regulate the internal organs of the chest and abdomen. The vagus nerve operates mainly as an autonomic nerve.

There are 31 pairs of *spinal nerves*, which stem from the spinal cord through openings between vertebrae. This group includes a mix of nerves that carry motor, sensory, and autonomic signals.

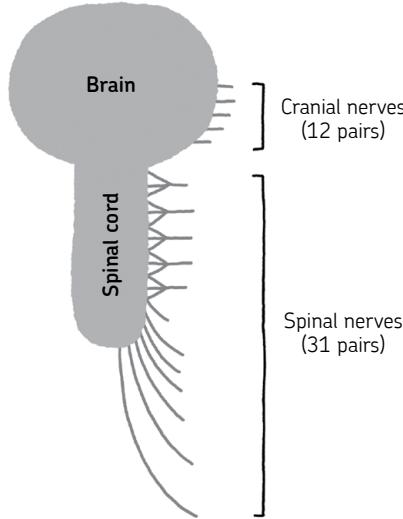


Figure 6-10: Cranial nerves and spinal nerves

Together, the cranial nerves and spinal nerves account for the movements and sensations of every inch in the body. Poke around anywhere on your body, from the tip of your little toe to the tip of your little finger to the top of your head, and you won't find a spot that has no sensation. That's pretty amazing, isn't it? Just think of how easily the handful of cords that connect a TV, DVD player, and cable box gets tangled up. Meanwhile, your nerves run throughout your entire body without ever getting any wires crossed, exchanging a huge volume of different kinds of information between the central and peripheral nervous system.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

When spinal nerves stem from the spinal cord, they divide into branches or merge with spinal nerves above and below them to create a meshlike structure called a *nerve plexus*.



## THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM



The word *autonomic* means involuntary and automatic. Many bodily functions are controlled by the autonomic nervous system without our being conscious of them. The autonomic nervous system has two major parts: the *sympathetic nervous system (SNS)*, which has to do with excitation and action, and the *parasympathetic nervous system (PNS)*, which has to do with calming and relaxation.

Different parts of the autonomic nervous system react depending on the situation. Let's suppose a herd of herbivores are eating plants on a savannah. They are relaxed and

have no nearby predators to fear. In this relaxed state (nicknamed “rest and digest”), the parasympathetic nervous system is predominantly at work (see Figure 6-11). The neurotransmitter *acetylcholine* is released from parasympathetic nerves.

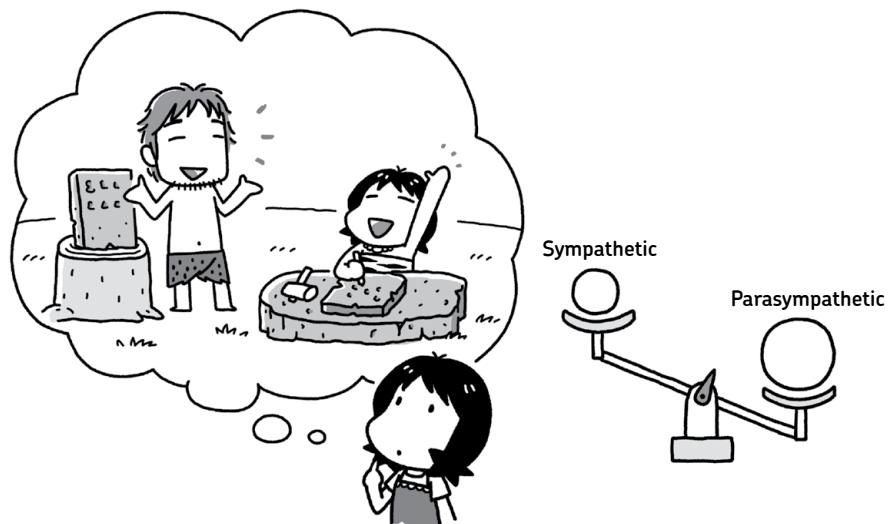


Figure 6-11: When you are relaxed, the parasympathetic nervous system is primarily in control.

Then some predators appear on the scene. The herbivores suddenly become nervous, and either run away or fight to protect themselves. In this agitated state (nicknamed “fight or flight”), the sympathetic nervous system is predominantly at work (see Figure 6-12). When a sympathetic nerve is excited, *norepinephrine* and *epinephrine* (adrenaline) are secreted from the adrenal medulla, maintaining the stimulated state of the body.

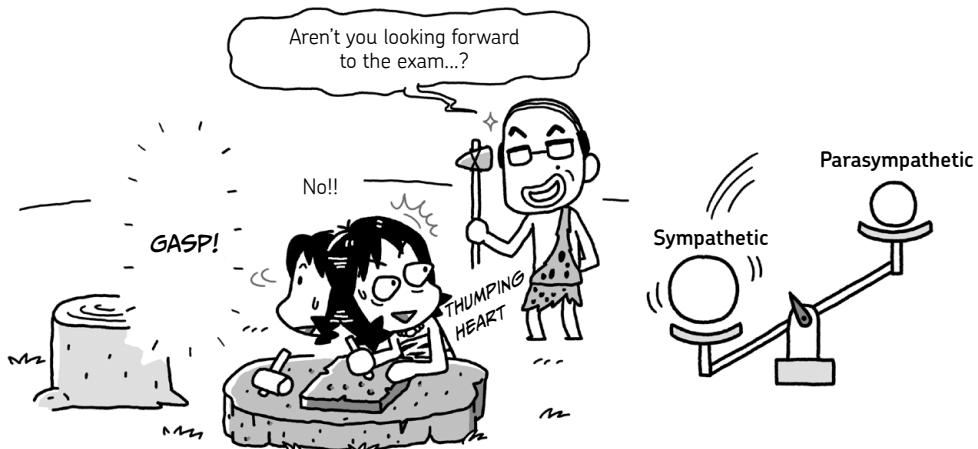


Figure 6-12: When you are scared or agitated, the sympathetic nervous system kicks in.



When the sympathetic nervous system becomes predominant, my heart starts thumping and my blood pressure rises.



That's right. The herbivore that believes it is about to be attacked by the predator must exert all its energy to run away or defend itself.

When this happens, the heart rate and blood pressure increase. The trachea expands so that lots of oxygen can be taken in, glycogen that was stored in the liver is broken down, and a large amount of glucose is released into the blood. At such times, you typically don't eat or excrete waste products. The blood flow to your digestive organs decreases, and the secretion of digestive fluids and movement of your alimentary canal slow down.



And while I'm unlikely to be attacked by a predator, I feel "attacked" by my test, right? I feel stressed!



Exactly. Although humans are not attacked by predators very often, they still respond similarly to threatening or unwelcome situations. Also, if this stress continues for a long time, a person's body and mind will become fatigued, as shown in Figure 6-13.

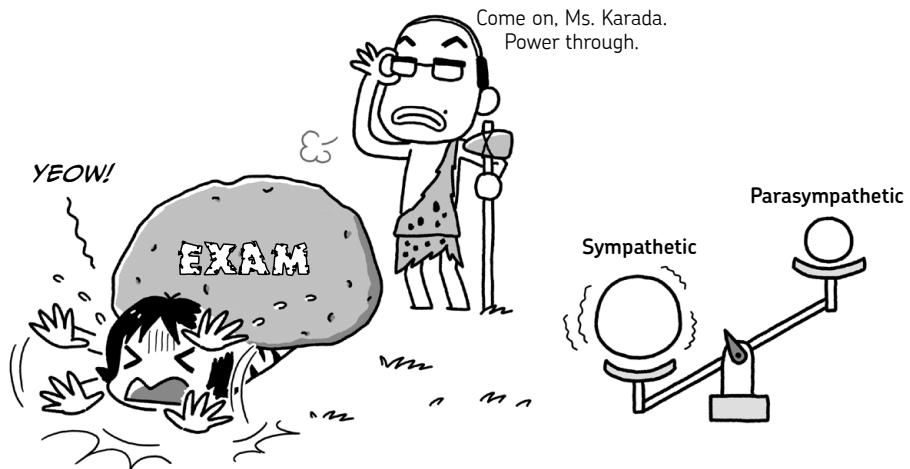


Figure 6-13: If the sympathetic nervous system is active for a long time, fatigue sets in.

It's essential for both the parasympathetic nervous system and the sympathetic nervous system to operate in a well-balanced manner (Figure 6-14). The autonomic nerves are distributed among the internal organs such as the heart and liver, internal secretory organs such as the pancreas and adrenal glands, the trachea and bronchial tube, the digestive system, the urinary bladder, and the arteries throughout the body. In most cases, the sympathetic nerves and parasympathetic nerves are distributed to exert opposite, complementary effects on all these systems.

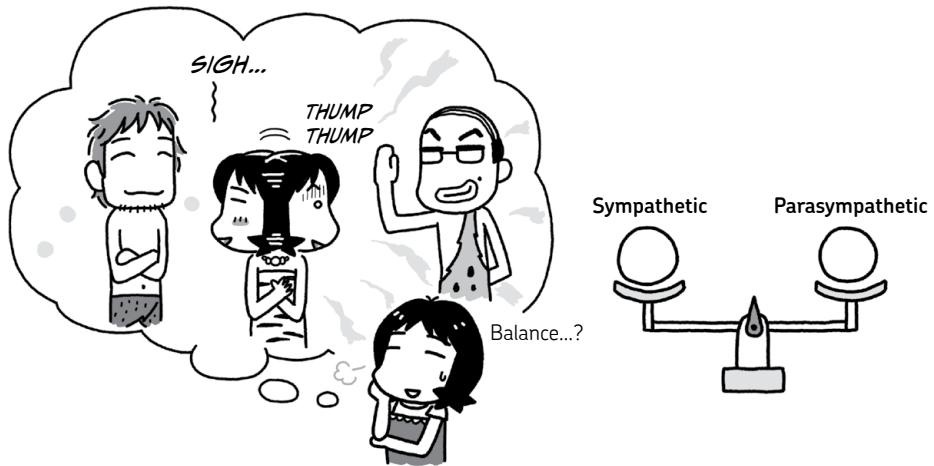


Figure 6-14: Balance between the parasympathetic and sympathetic nerves



Is something wrong?



No . . . not at all!

### The Enteric Nervous System

The third part of the autonomic nervous system, called the *enteric nervous system*, helps coordinate the actions of the gastrointestinal system. It is often called the “second brain” because it contains about 100 million neurons, more than the spinal cord or peripheral nervous system.

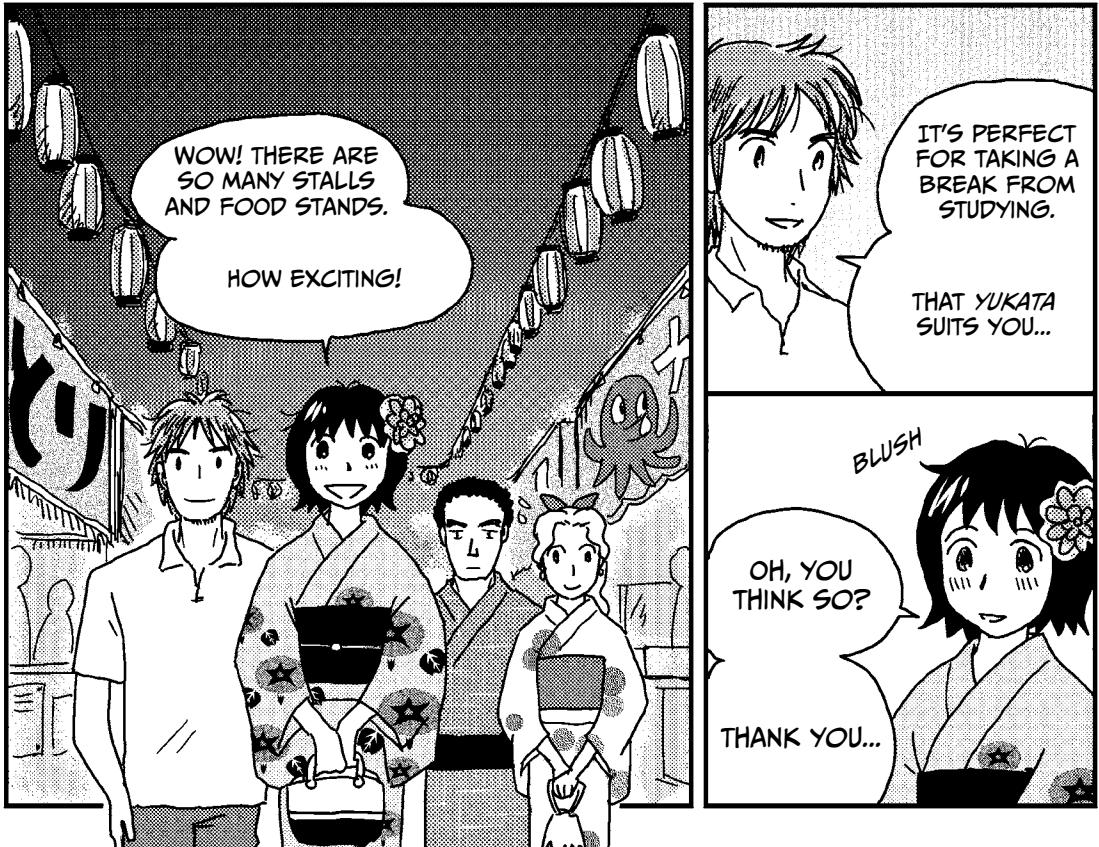
The enteric nervous system uses more than 30 neurotransmitters, and more than 90 percent of the body’s serotonin is found in the gut.

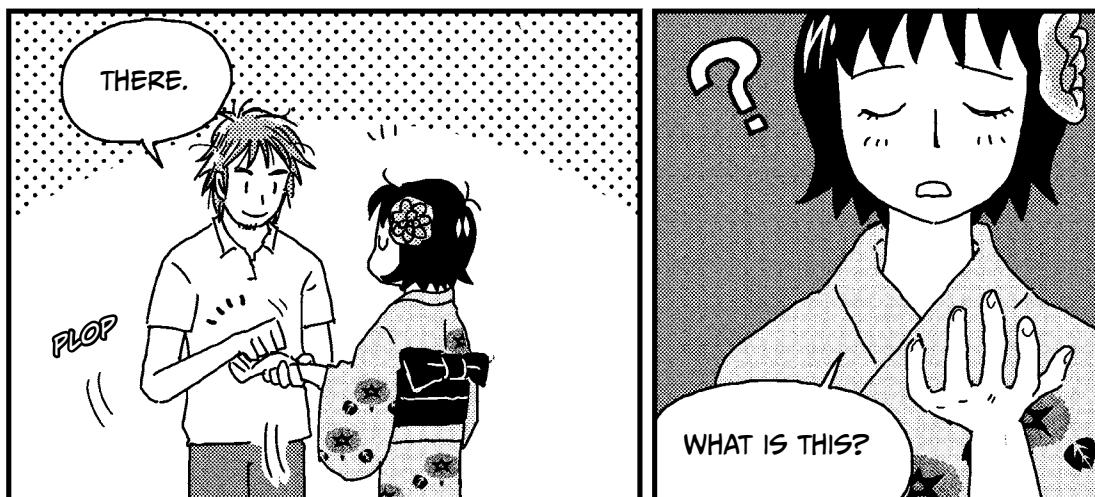
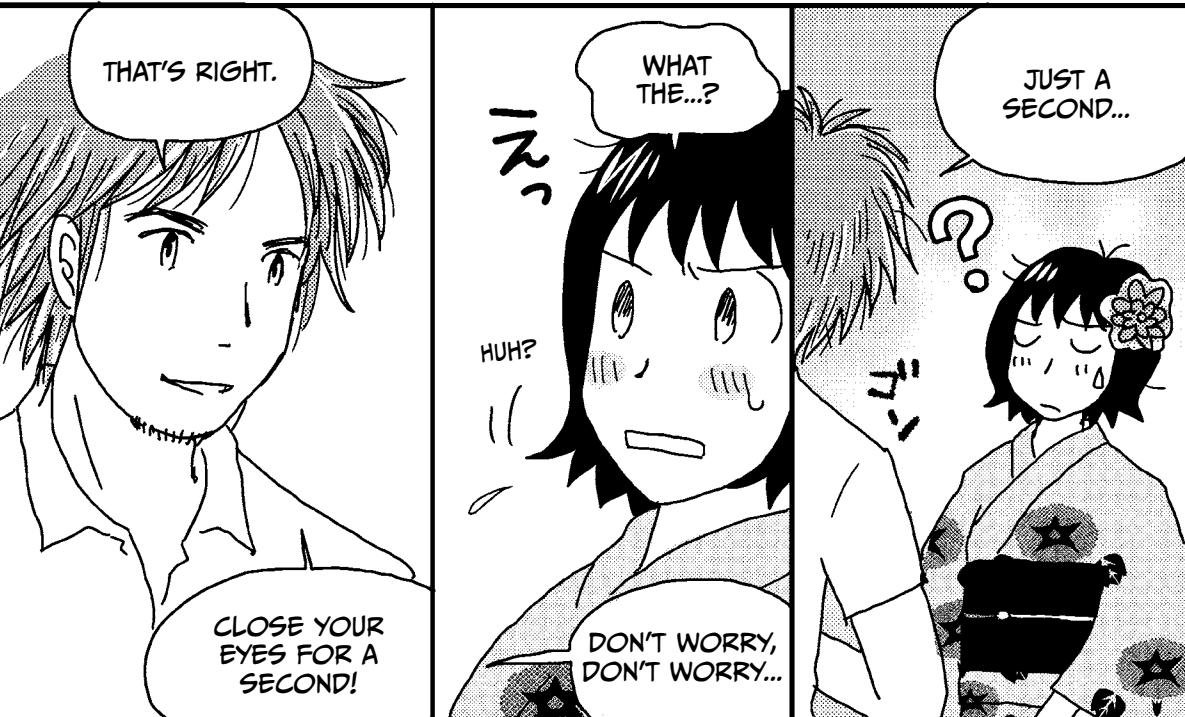


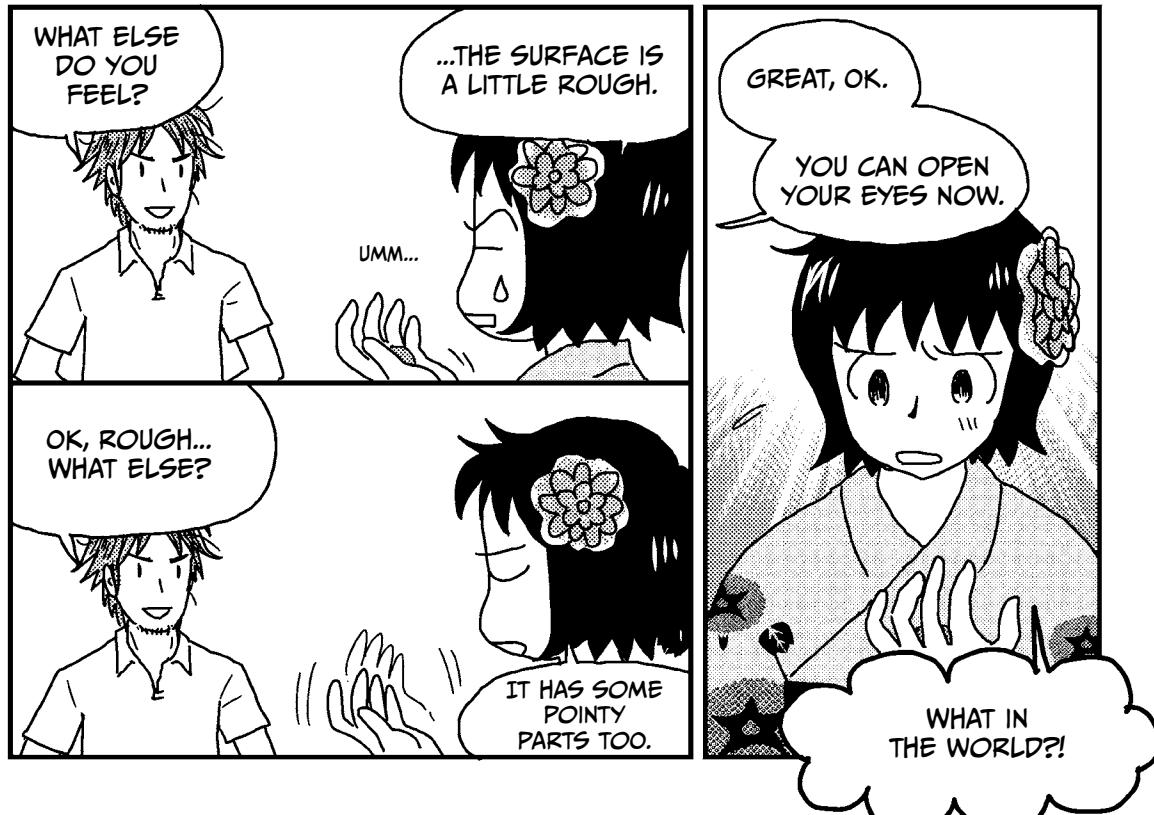
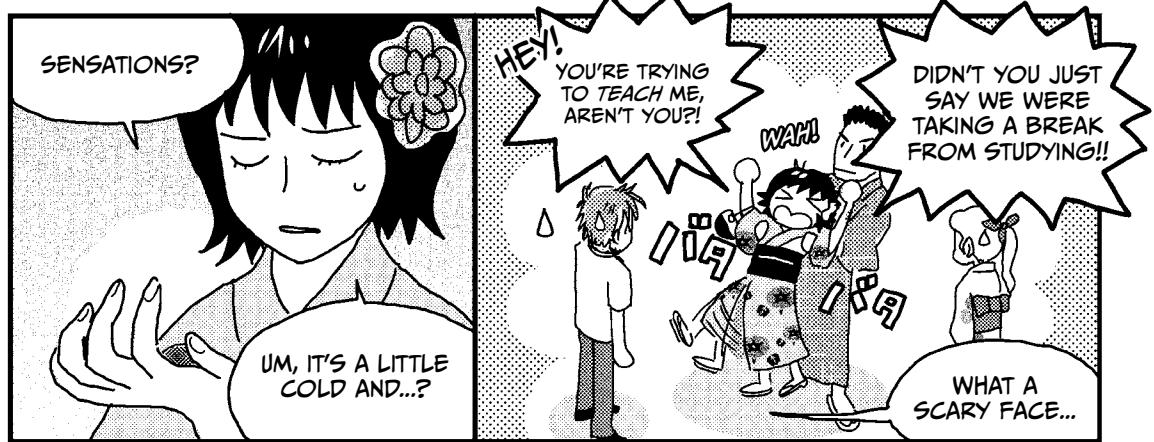
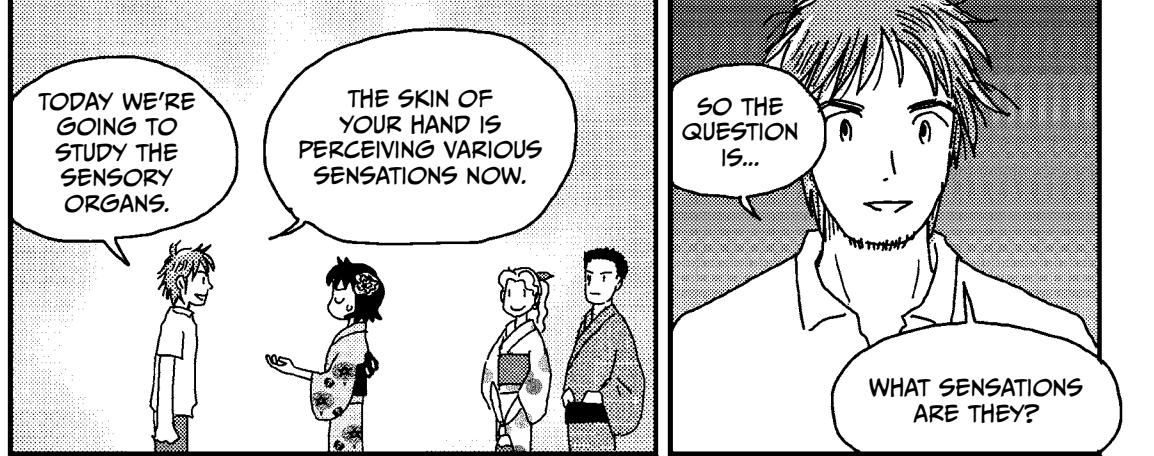
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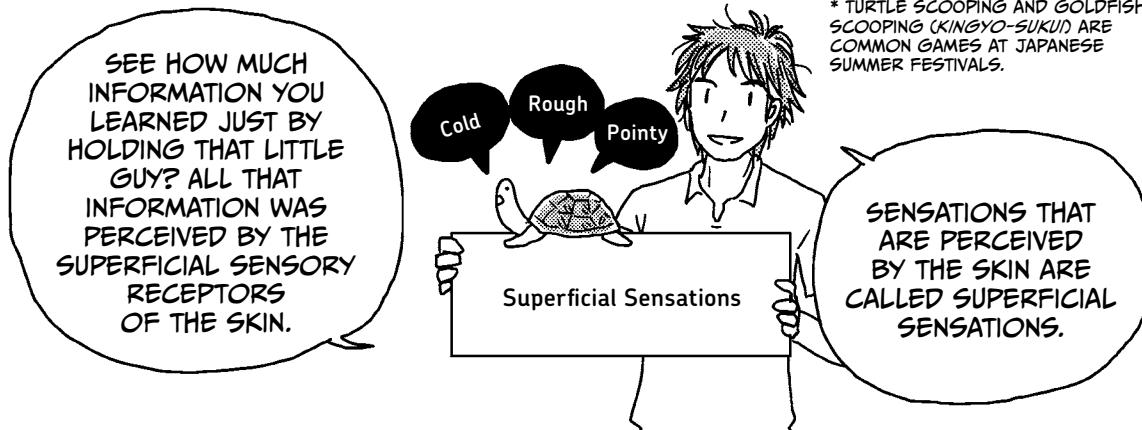
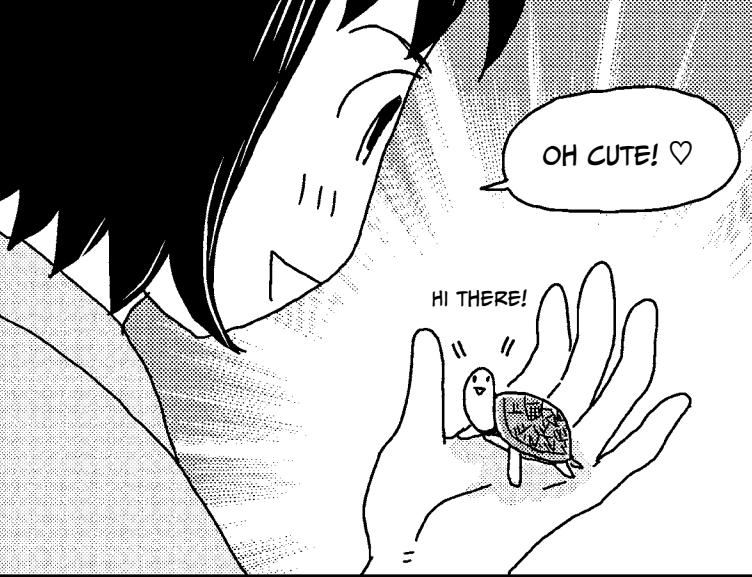
## THE SENSORY NERVOUS SYSTEM

PAIN, OTHER SENSATIONS,  
AND OUR SPECIAL SENSES





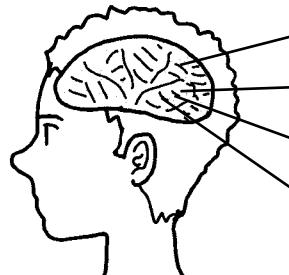




## TYPES OF SENSATIONS

SUPERFICIAL SENSATIONS INCLUDE PRESSURE, WARMTH, COLD, AND PAIN.

RECEPTORS LOCATED AT THE ENDS OF SENSORY NERVES IN THE SKIN PERCEIVE THESE SENSATIONS AND SEND INFORMATION ABOUT THEM TO THE BRAIN.



- Pain
- Pressure
- Warmth
- Cold



SO HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M TOUCHING SOMETHING ROUGH OR SMOOTH?

THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF RECEPTORS FOR TOUCH, AND EACH ONE TELLS YOUR BRAIN SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

YOUR BRAIN PUTS ALL THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT THE SURFACE FEELS LIKE.

BUT PROFESSOR...

WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU SENSE THE WEIGHT OF SOMETHING, THAT SEEMS VERY DIFFERENT FROM FEELING PAIN OR TEMPERATURE.

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU NOTICED THIS.

WHEN SOMETHING FEELS HEAVY OR LIGHT, THAT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF SENSATION.

CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A MOMENT.

SO I'M GOING TO BE YOUR GUINEA PIG AGAIN?

=

WELL...

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE MY CANDY APPLE...

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

I'M NOT TAKING IT.

BUT YOU CAN TELL THAT I RAISED YOUR HAND, RIGHT?

?

WELL, OF COURSE I CAN. THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S MY OWN HAND.

BUT WHAT'S GOING ON WHEN YOU PERCEIVE THE POSITION OF YOUR OWN ARM?

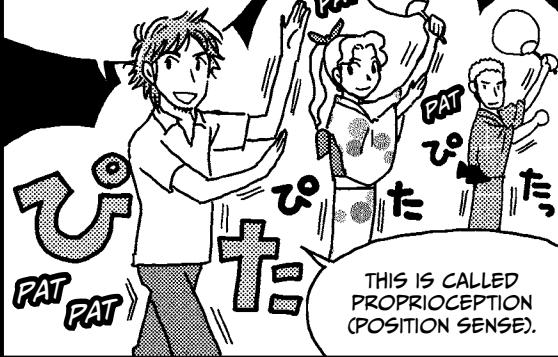
AH!

I GUESS THAT'S ITS OWN KIND OF SENSATION—HOW I PERCEIVE THE POSITION OF MY OWN BODY?

THAT'S RIGHT!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MY OWN HANDS AND FEET IN THIS POSE WITHOUT LOOKING AT WHERE THEY ARE.

Proprioception (Position Sense)



THIS IS CALLED PROPRIOCEPTION (POSITION SENSE).

AND IF I MOVE THIS WAY, I PERCEIVE THE KIND OF MOVEMENT MY BODY MADE.

Kinesthesia (Sense of Body Movement)



THAT'S A PART OF PROPRIOCEPTION CALLED KINESTHESIA.

THESE SENSATIONS RELY ON RECEPTORS IN YOUR MUSCLES AND JOINTS, AS OPPOSED TO RECEPTORS IN YOUR SKIN.

Position or Movement



AS A RESULT, THESE SENSATIONS ARE OFTEN CALLED DEEP SENSATIONS.

Vibration



ANOTHER KIND OF DEEP SENSATION IS VIBRATION. YOUR MUSCLES USE THIS SENSATION TO PUSH BACK AGAINST BUMPS AND KEEP YOU UPRIGHT!

Deep Sensation

SO FAR WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT TWO TYPES OF SENSATION.

Superficial sensation

Deep sensation



THAT'S  
RIGHT!

SUPERFICIAL SENSATIONS, WHICH WE MENTIONED EARLIER, AND DEEP SENSATIONS TOGETHER ARE KNOWN AS SOMATIC SENSATIONS.

I SEE.

Superficial sensation

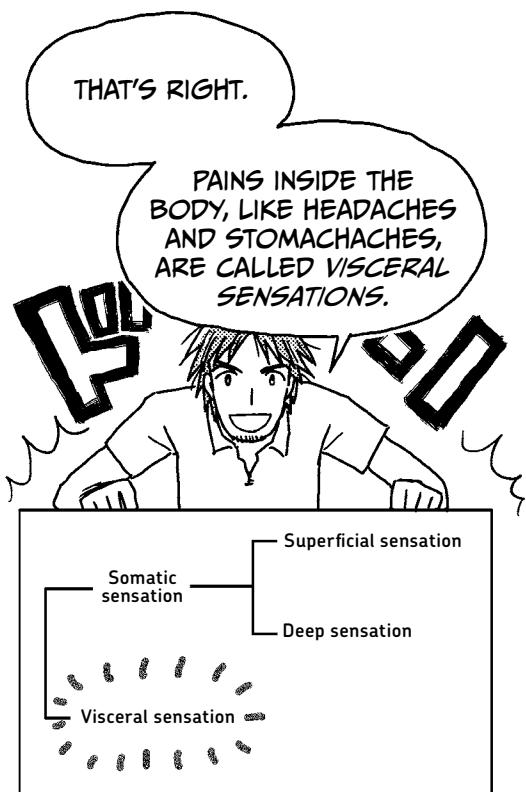
Somatic sensation

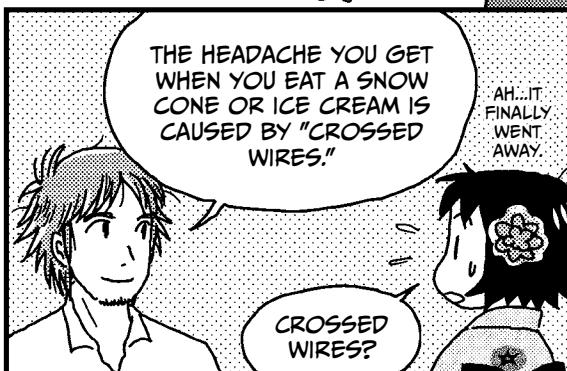
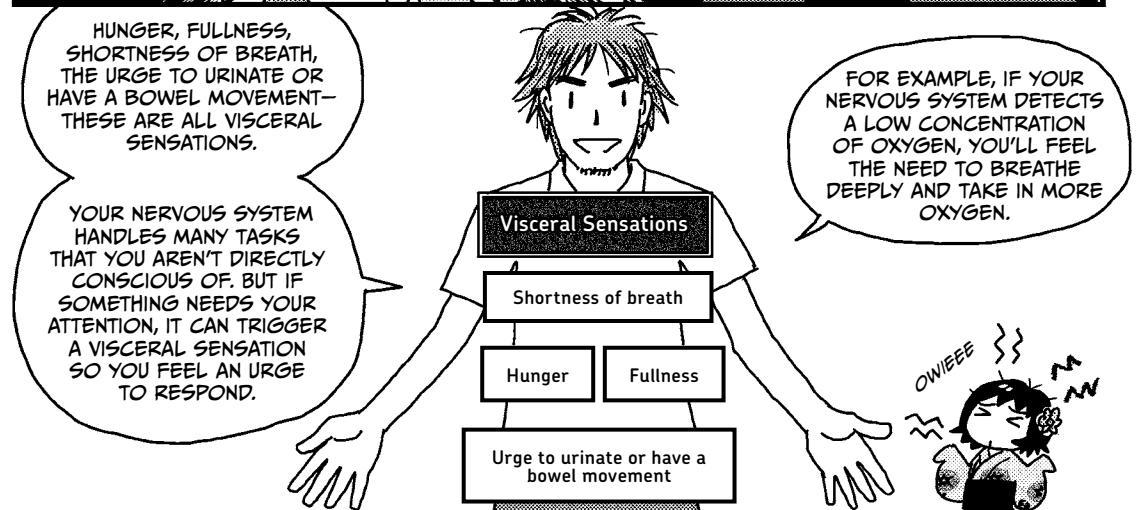
Deep sensation



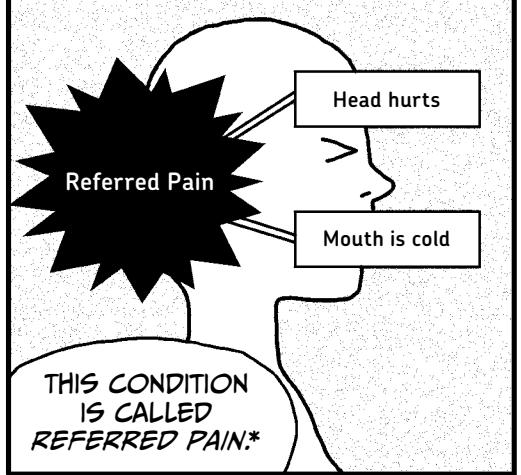
GOOD.  
I THINK YOU  
GET IT NOW.



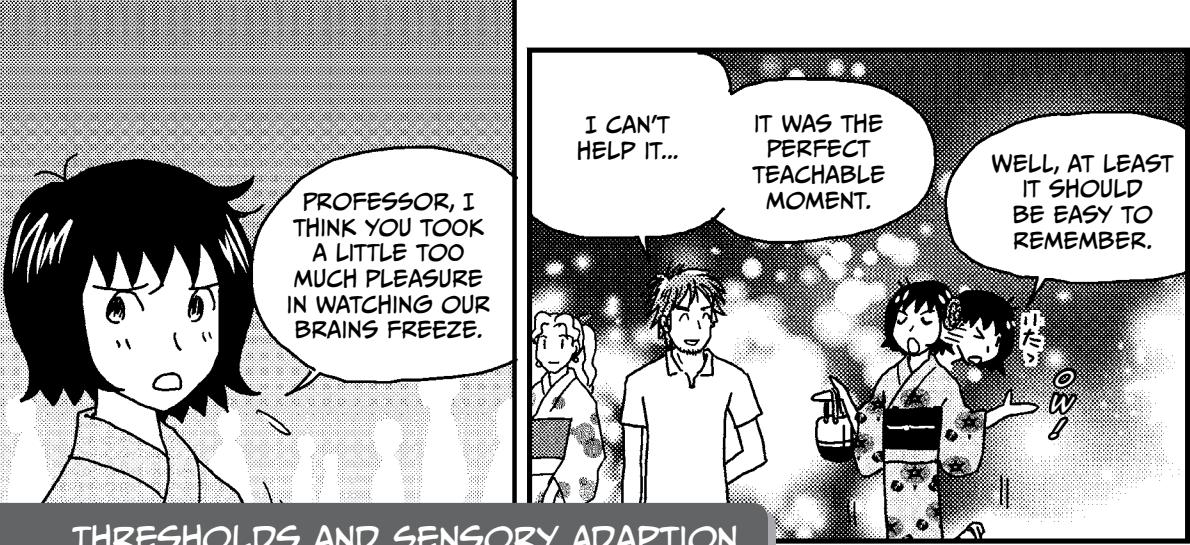




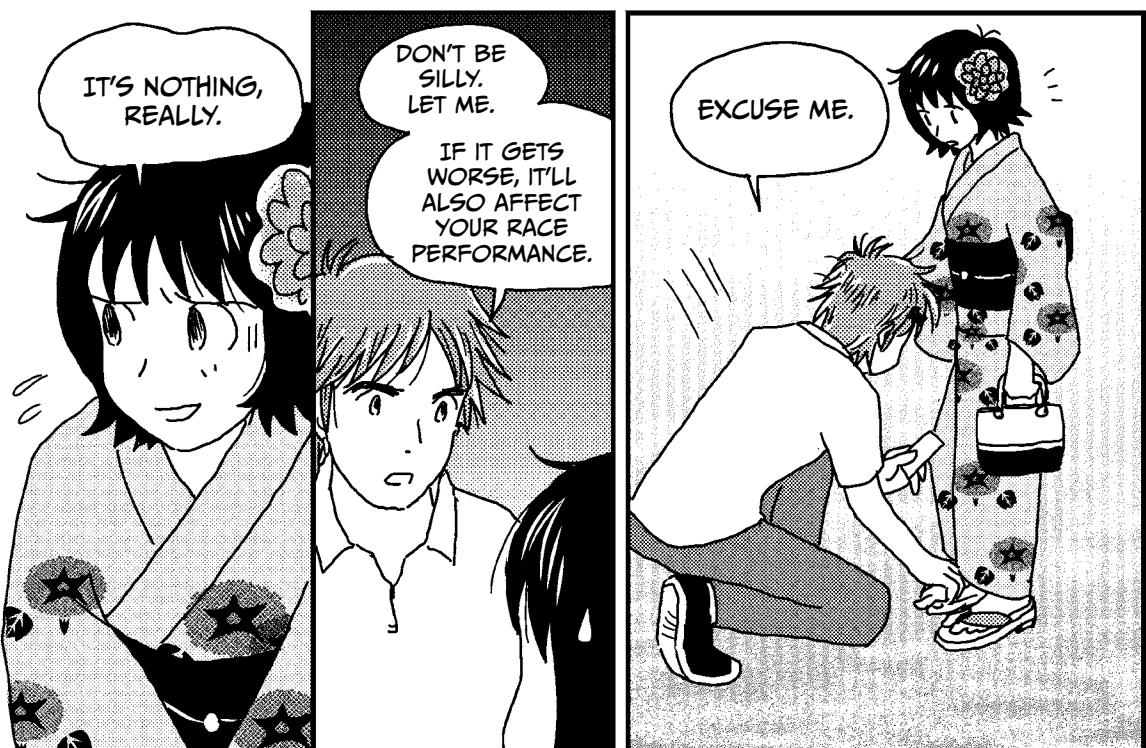
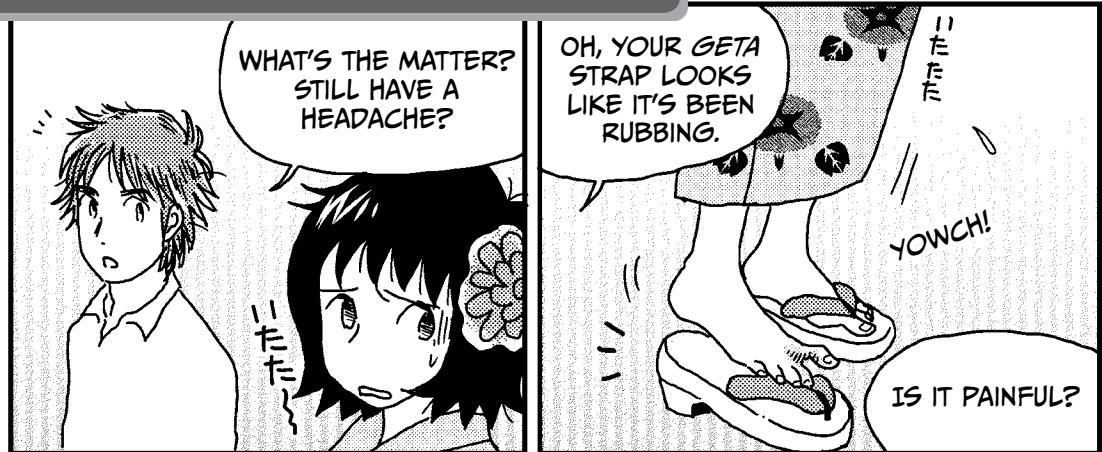
YOU GET A HEADACHE, INSTEAD. THAT'S BECAUSE THE NERVES THAT SENSE VISCERAL SENSATIONS LIKE PAIN ARE LESS ORGANIZED, SO YOUR BRAIN DOESN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE SIGNALS COME FROM. SO WHEN YOUR MOUTH GETS EXTREMELY COLD, THAT SENSATION IS MISINTERPRETED AS PAIN IN YOUR TEMPLES. IT'S SORT OF LIKE TWO TELEPHONE WIRES GETTING CROSSED.

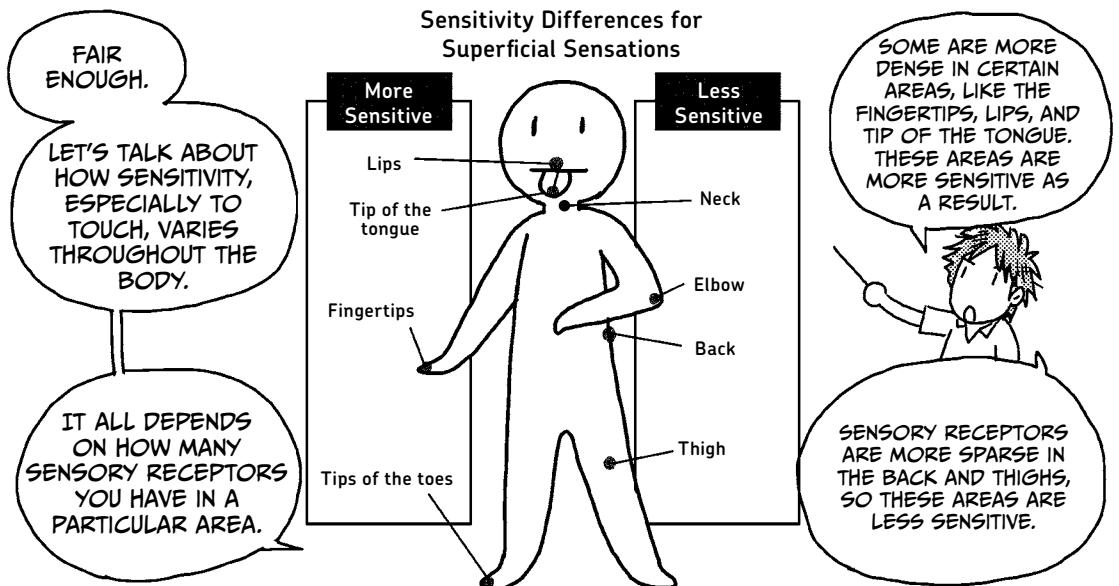
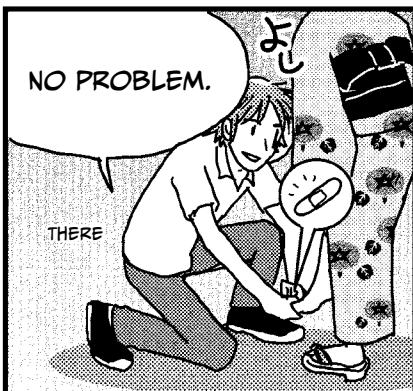


\* REFERRED PAIN THAT IS PERCEIVED AT A LOCATION OTHER THAN WHERE THE PAIN OCCURRED IS SPECIFICALLY CALLED RADIATING PAIN.



## THRESHOLDS AND SENSORY ADAPTION





CERTAIN AREAS ARE MORE SENSITIVE THAN OTHERS, AND CERTAIN SENSATIONS HAVE A HIGHER PRIORITY, TOO—ESPECIALLY PAIN. YOU HAVE MORE RECEPTORS FOR TOUCH AND PAIN THAN YOU DO FOR GENTLE TEMPERATURES LIKE WARM AND COOL.



Pain Receptor



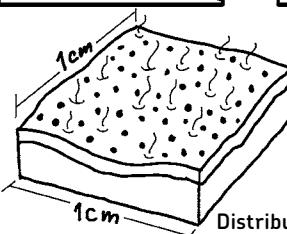
Pressure Receptor



Cold Receptor

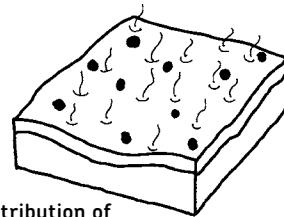


Warm Receptor



Distribution of pain receptors

THERE ARE MANY WAYS PAIN IS PRIORITIZED OVER OTHER SENSATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, AN INJURY CAN CAUSE THE RELEASE OF CHEMICALS TO MAKE THE SURROUNDING AREA MORE SENSITIVE TO PAIN. THIS IS CALLED HYPERALGESIA.



Distribution of warmth receptors

IN OTHER WORDS, HYPERALGESIA LOWERS THE PAIN THRESHOLD. THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF STIMULUS THAT CAUSES A SENSATION LIKE PAIN OR COLD TO BE PERCEIVED IS CALLED THE THRESHOLD VALUE.

Threshold Value	Low	Felt even with a weak stimulus (sensitive)
High		Felt only with a strong stimulus (insensitive)

A LOW THRESHOLD VALUE MEANS THAT THE SENSATION IS FELT EVEN IF THE STIMULUS IS WEAK.

AND A HIGH THRESHOLD VALUE MEANS THAT THE SENSATION CANNOT BE FELT UNLESS THE STIMULUS IS STRONG.



YOUR SENSITIVITY TO A STIMULUS CAN CHANGE OVER TIME, TOO.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THERE IS A STIMULUS ABOVE THE THRESHOLD THAT REMAINS CONSTANT—LIKE IF I POKE YOU AND KEEP MY FINGER THERE—AFTER A WHILE YOU MAY NO LONGER SENSE IT.

Doesn't hurt anymore

Sensory Adaptation

Threshold value

Still doesn't hurt

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF SENSORY ADAPTATION.

MS. KARADA?

~?

TURN

HEY,  
PROFESSOR!  
COME OVER,  
QUICK!

BOOM

HUH?  
WHERE'D  
THOSE TWO  
GUYS GO?

THEY MUST HAVE  
GOTTEN LOST...

OOOO, WHAT A  
SPECTACULAR  
SHOW...

MS. KARADA, IT'S  
YOUR FIRST TIME  
AT THE FESTIVAL,  
ISN'T IT?

I HOPE IT WAS  
A NICE STUDY  
BREAK...EVEN IF  
WE STUDIED A  
LITTLE...

WELL, I STILL  
HAD A GREAT  
TIME TONIGHT.

BOOM

POP  
POP

YES, IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL.



# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE SENSORY NERVOUS SYSTEM!

So far we've discussed superficial, deep, and visceral sensations. But there is a fourth major category of sensations: special senses, which include the senses of sight, hearing, balance, smell, and taste. All of them have specialized organs associated with them, such as the eyes, ears, and nose. Let's go through each of these special senses.

## SIGHT AND THE EYE



Let's start with sight. The basic structure of the eye is a lot like that of a film camera (see Figure 7-1). The *crystalline lens* of the eye is like a camera lens, the *iris* the aperture, and the *retina* the film.

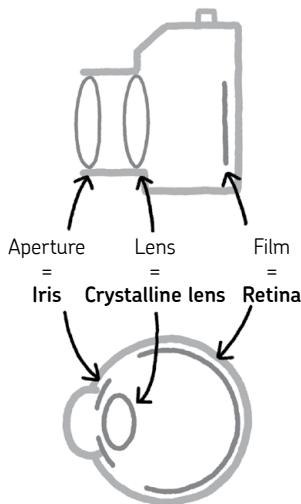


Figure 7-1: The eye is like a camera.

Figure 7-2 shows the structure of the eye in more detail. Light that enters the eye is refracted (or bent) by the *cornea* and lens, and is projected onto the retina as an image, which is both upside-down and backward. Two types of cells, called cones and rods, are tightly arranged in the retina. These cells can perceive when light hits them and send signals to the cerebral cortex through the *optic nerve*. Your brain then interprets the signals as light and puts together the image, reversing it to the correct orientation.



Is there a particular reason why humans, along with so many other animals, have two eyes?



Have you ever had to wear an eye patch? You might have noticed that you lost your *depth perception*, or sense of distance. When you focus on an object with both eyes, the images perceived by each eye are slightly offset from each other horizontally. How much these

images are offset depends on how close or far away the object is. Your brain also analyzes a few other clues (like size, texture, and so on) to determine depth information so that you can see objects three-dimensionally.

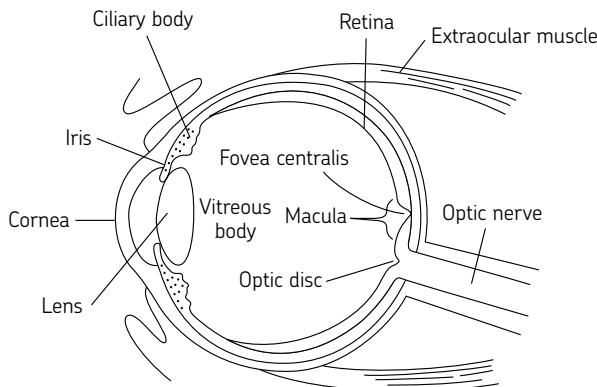


Figure 7-2: Structure of the eye

Light information is delivered to the visual cortex (which is part of the cerebral cortex), where the two images from each eye are integrated so that the object is “seen.” But the light gets from the retina to the visual cortex by slightly different routes, depending on which eye and which part of the eye, received the information. The image projected onto the outer half of the retina (closer to your ears) is sent to the visual cortex on the same side of the brain as the eye that perceived it. Meanwhile, the image projected onto the inner half of the retina (closer to your nose) is sent across to the visual cortex on the opposite side of the brain. The part of the brain where these routes cross over is called the *optic chiasm* (Figure 7-3).

This means that if you hold up both hands in front of you, the image of your right hand is sent to your brain’s left hemisphere (which controls that hand!), and the image of your left hand is sent to the right hemisphere (which controls that one!). In other words, when you catch a ball coming from your left with your left hand, it’s your right brain that both sees the ball and directs your left hand to catch it. This way, you put both sides of your visual field together as one picture, while the parts of your brain that need to see and respond to objects in front of you are close together.

### DID YOU KNOW?

When you look at something, you don’t just turn your face; your eyeballs move, too. The rotation of your eyeballs is controlled by a total of six muscles, called the extraocular muscles.

The pupil is the hole in the iris that lets in light. It contracts when there is lots of light, and it becomes larger in the dark. The pupils are controlled by autonomic nerves, and in the absence of disease they are the same size in both eyes.



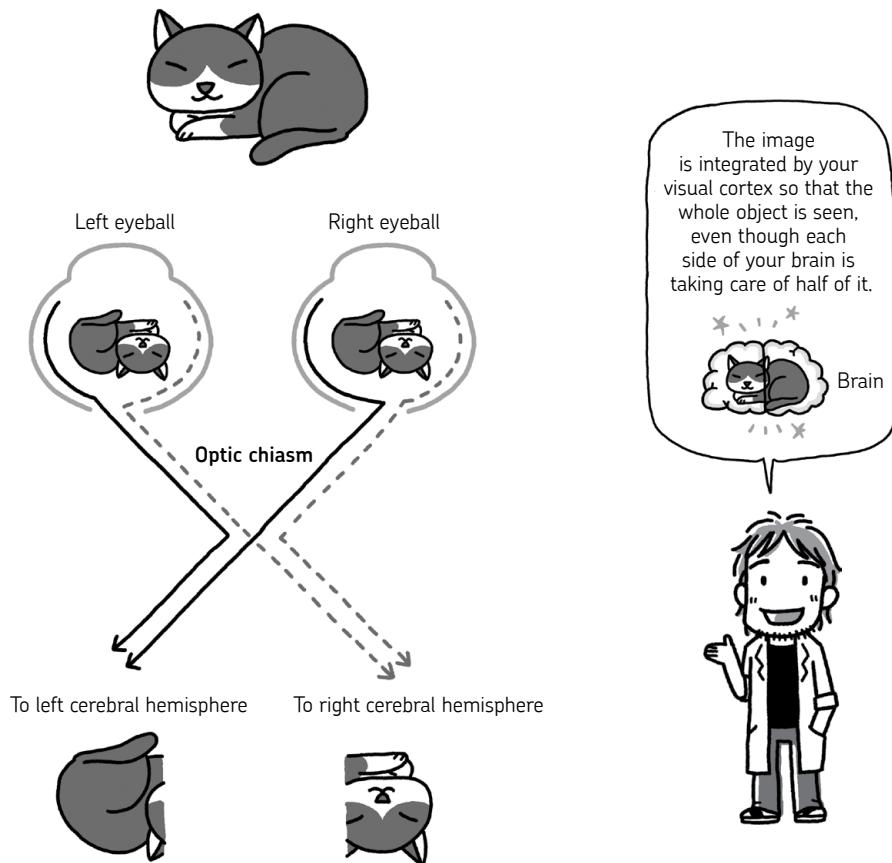


Figure 7-3: How information traverses the optic chiasm and how visual information travels

## MYOPIA AND OTHER COMMON CONDITIONS



But the eye doesn't always work perfectly. Myopia occurs when the lens can't adjust its thickness to focus properly, right?



Yes, that can be one cause of myopia. *Myopia* (nearsightedness) is when you cannot focus on distant objects—its literal meaning is “trying to see like a mole.” *Hyperopia* (farsightedness) is when a clear image cannot be projected on the retina, so that you cannot focus on objects closeby.

Both of these conditions often arise because the size of the eyeball has changed. If the eyeball gets longer, the distance from the lens to the retina increases, and it becomes more difficult to see distant objects (causing myopia). On the other hand, if the eyeball is too short, the distance between the retina and the lens decreases, and nearby objects are difficult to see (causing hyperopia).

While we're talking of common eye troubles, *astigmatism* is a condition in which the refractive index of the cornea differs in the vertical and horizontal directions; thus, the lens bends light as an oval, rather than as an even circle, distorting the image.

Finally, *presbyopia* (so-called age-related farsightedness) is a condition in which the thickness of the crystalline lens can't adjust by stretching and relaxing any more. This is often because of aging, but this can also happen due to other factors.

## COLORS AND LIGHT IN THE EYE



How do we distinguish colors?



That's the role of rods and cones in the retina. *Cone cells* distinguish colors. There are three types of cone cells, and each one corresponds to one of the primary colors of light: red, green, or blue. *Rod cells*, on the other hand, only distinguish light from darkness, regardless of the color of the light. The rods are more sensitive, however, and signal one another if very little light is entering the eye. As a result, in darker situations, the cones cannot detect any light, and we see mostly using the rods, giving the sensation that things are less colorful or more "black-and-white." The rods and cones are arranged throughout the retina, but they are particularly dense in and around the *macula*, the central portion of the retina where the lens projects the middle of an image. The center of the macula, the *fovea centralis*, is where the center of the field of vision is focused.

### Visual Acuity

*Visual acuity* describes the sharpness and accuracy of a person's vision. It measures the ability to recognize light and darkness, color, distance, and moving objects.

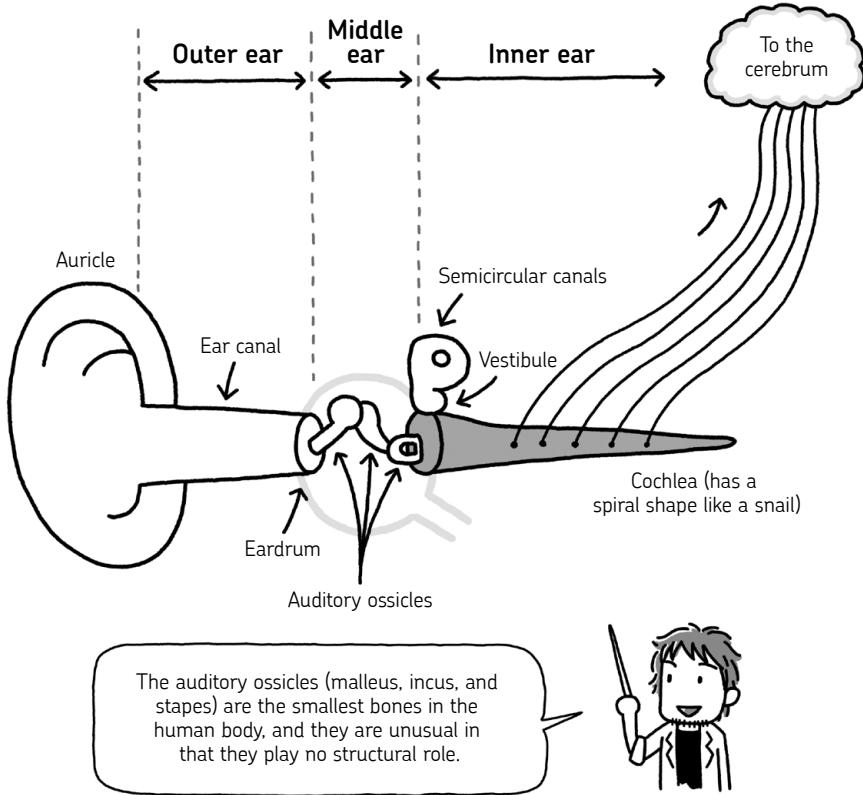
Visual acuity is often tested using an eye chart of letters and symbols arranged from largest to smallest, which tests whether an eye can distinguish details at a certain distance. Other tests can distinguish the ability to recognize color, distance, and moving objects, as well as the presence of any problematic "blind spots" in the visual field, or regions in which a person's eyes or brain cannot detect light.

## HEARING AND THE EAR



Your ears are responsible not only for your sense of hearing but also for your sense of balance. Let's take a look at the ear's structure (Figure 7-4).

The ear is divided into the outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear. The outer ear consists of the auricle (the main bulk of cartilage attached to the side of your head) and the ear canal. The eardrum (tympanic membrane) and the auditory ossicles behind it make up the middle ear. The auditory ossicles are a small set of bones called the malleus, incus, and stapes (Latin for hammer, anvil, and stirrup, respectively). The inner ear is embedded deep inside the skull, and it includes the semicircular canals and vestibule, which make up the vestibular system, and the snail-shaped cochlea. Although all of these parts help perceive sound, only your inner ear (specifically the vestibular system) is involved in your body's perception of balance.



The auditory ossicles (malleus, incus, and stapes) are the smallest bones in the human body, and they are unusual in that they play no structural role.



Figure 7-4: Structure of the ear

Sound is just vibrations of the air. The ear is an apparatus that amplifies those vibrations and then converts them into nerve impulses. The shape of the auricle helps reflect sound into the ear, where the tubular ear canal helps direct those vibrations toward the eardrum, which vibrates in response. The three tiny auditory ossicles inside the middle ear make those vibrations into larger movements and transmit them to the inner ear. The cochlea in the inner ear is filled with lymph fluid, and when that fluid vibrates, receptor cells inside the cochlea are able to distinguish frequencies and convert them to nerve impulses.



What causes hearing loss?



There are several kinds of hearing loss depending on where the problem occurs in the ear. Since the outer ear and middle ear conduct sound, they are sometimes referred to as the sound conduction system. A problem in these parts of the ear is called *conductive hearing loss*. Specific examples include blockage of the outer ear, perforation of the eardrum, or loss of mobility in the auditory ossicles.

Conductive hearing loss can be alleviated by products that aid bone conduction. Bone conduction is the delivery of vibrations to the inner ear through the skull (rather than

through the outer and middle ear), as shown in Figure 7–5. Therefore, as long as the inner ear is still intact, sound can still be perceived. Earphones that use this technique have recently appeared on the market.

Since the inner ear “perceives sound,” it is sometimes referred to as the sound perception system. The inability to recognize sound due to a problem in the nerves in the inner ear or cerebrum is called *sensorineural hearing loss*.

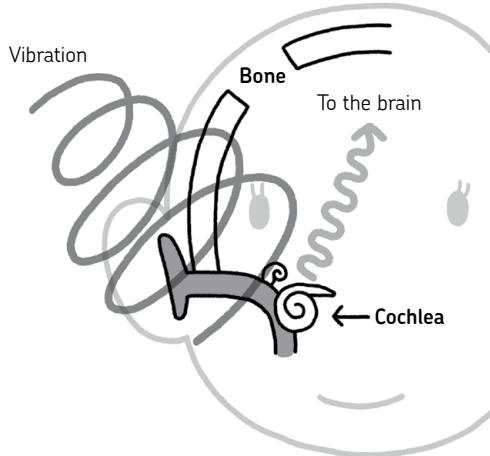


Figure 7–5: Bone conduction

## BALANCE AND THE INNER EAR



Tell me more about the vestibular system. How does it perceive balance?



The inner ear perceives two types of motion: rotational motion and inclination of the head. Rotational motion is perceived by the *semicircular canal system*, while the inclination of the head is perceived by the *vestibule*, which is the part below the semicircular canals.

### Ears Help Equalize Pressure!

For the eardrum to move freely, the pressure on the outer ear (atmospheric pressure) and the pressure on the middle ear needs to be similar. The Eustachian tube, which connects the middle ear to the back of your nasal cavity, lets fluid drain or air move back and forth to equalize the pressures. But if the air pressure around you changes rapidly, as during an airplane ride or while scuba diving, the difference in pressures may cause a ringing sound. Some people find that making an effort to blow their nose while holding their nostrils shut can push air into the Eustachian tube, popping it open and equalizing the pressures to stop the ringing.

The semicircular canals are three loops arranged at perpendicular angles to each other. When your head turns in any direction, lymph fluid inside the semicircular canals pushes and bends specialized nerve cells at the base of each loop. These nerves, in turn, send signals to the brain that cause a feeling of motion in that particular direction. This is shown in Figure 7-6.

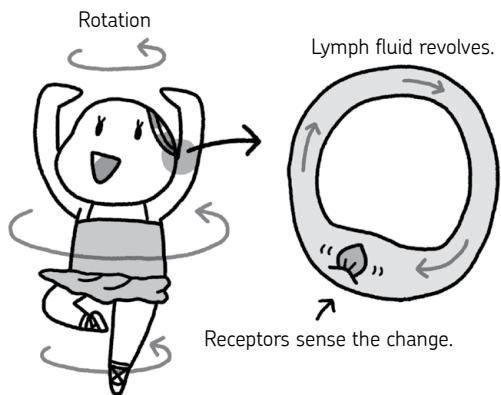


Figure 7-6: As the lymph fluid flows, specialized nerve cells detect the rotation.

Meanwhile, the vestibule contains an apparatus for detecting which way is up (see Figure 7-7). In the vestibule, tiny particles ride on a similar fluid so that when you tilt your head by bending your neck, the fluid is moved by gravity, and nerve cells perceive the direction that gravity is pulling “down.” With this information, your brain can tell which way is “up” and, by comparison, the tilt of your head.

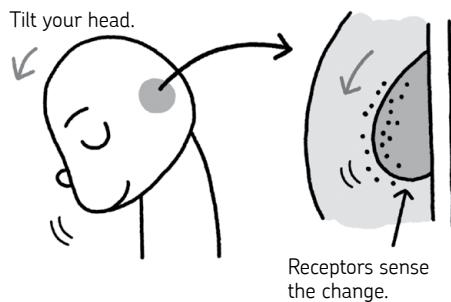


Figure 7-7: Particles ride on the fluid and detect how the direction of the force of gravity changes as your head tilts.

## SMELL AND THE NOSE



Smell is perceived by the olfactory epithelium, an area about the size of a fingertip located at the top of the nasal cavity (see Figure 7-8). This area is packed with chemical receptors.

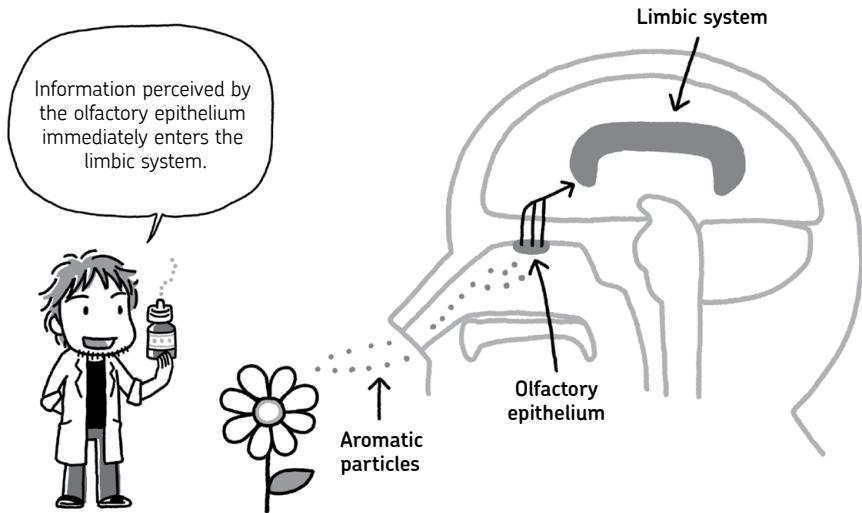


Figure 7-8: The mechanism for the sense of smell

When an *odorant* (any chemical compound that these receptors can detect) enters the nasal cavity and comes in contact with the olfactory epithelium, these cells send sensory information to the brain.

This sensory information passes through the roof of the nasal cavity and enters the limbic system (see “Parts of the Brain” on page 130), where it is processed by the olfactory bulbs in the brain. The limbic system also contains structures that are responsible for basic drives and emotions such as appetite and sexual desire, motivation, and pleasure or displeasure. Because the sense of smell is processed so close to this emotional center of the brain, certain smells often have strong ties with specific emotions.

Smells can also be closely linked to memories. Has the scent of a certain familiar fragrance ever instantly brought to mind a scene from your past in vivid detail? Once again, this is related to the physical proximity of the olfactory bulbs and other structures in the limbic system that deal with memory (see Figure 7-9).

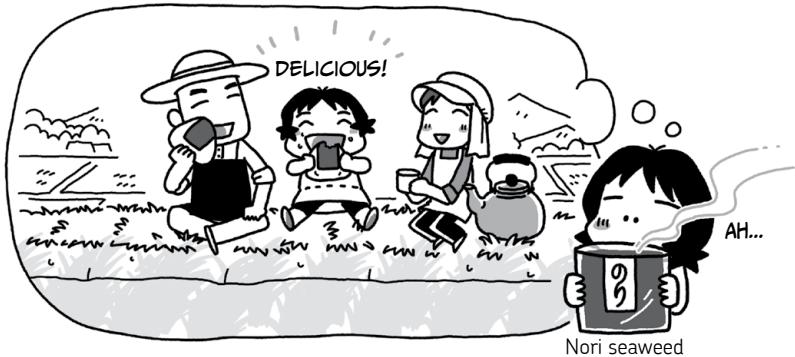


Figure 7-9: Aromas can evoke strong memories.

When your nose is clogged because of a cold or hay fever, you can't taste your food as well. That's because a major part of the sensation we think of as "taste" is really smell. Although our sense of taste is obviously perceived by the tongue, we cannot recognize the full "tastiness" of food without our sense of smell, as shown in Figure 7-10.



Figure 7-10: Your sense of taste is dulled when you can't smell.

Although our sense of smell is no match for that of a dog, it's still quite impressive. Humans have the ability to distinguish more than 10,000 distinct odors.

Sensory adaptation readily occurs for our sense of smell. That is, if you are surrounded by an odor, you may quickly grow accustomed to it and become temporarily unable to perceive it. However, even after adapting to a smell, you might still be quite sensitive to changes in the intensity of the odor and remain perceptive of other odors.

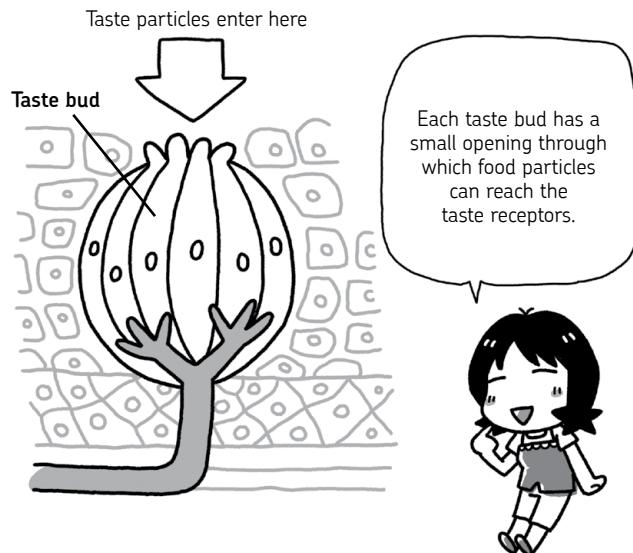
## TASTE AND THE TONGUE



Humans can perceive five tastes: saltiness, sweetness, bitterness, sourness, and umami (a "savory" taste, such as of the amino acids glutamate and aspartate). It used to be thought that each taste was only perceived by a certain area of the tongue (for example, saltiness was perceived only by the tip of the tongue and bitterness by the back part), but this theory has since been repudiated. Your sense of taste is important because it gives you a chance to perceive both the nutrients and toxins or poisons in food.

The sense of taste is mainly perceived by taste buds on the surface of the tongue. Each taste bud is like a little pocket that contains cells that perceive flavors. When flavor components such as salt or sugar mix with saliva and spread throughout the mouth, they are perceived by taste buds, which send this sensory information to the brain.

Since a taste bud is a tiny apparatus (see Figure 7-11), large molecules of food, like carbohydrates in rice or bread, need to be broken down into smaller molecules in order to be tasted. Chewing and enzymes like amylase in your saliva help break down food for your taste buds.



*Figure 7-11: Structure of a taste bud*



Where are taste buds located on the tongue?



Taste buds are particularly numerous in the little bumps called papillae on the surface of the tongue. However, taste buds are also found in the mucus membrane of the mouth and throat.

### MOUTH FUN FACTS

There are four kinds of papillae on the tongue. Filiform papillae are the most numerous kind, and they are largely responsible for the roughness of the tongue's surface. However, unlike the other kinds of papillae, they do not contain any taste buds. They are just there to grip and break up food!

The temperature of food affects how the taste buds perceive flavors. The warmer a food is when served, the more sensitive you might be to its sweetness or bitterness. This is why melted ice cream can taste too sweet and warm beer might taste extra bitter.



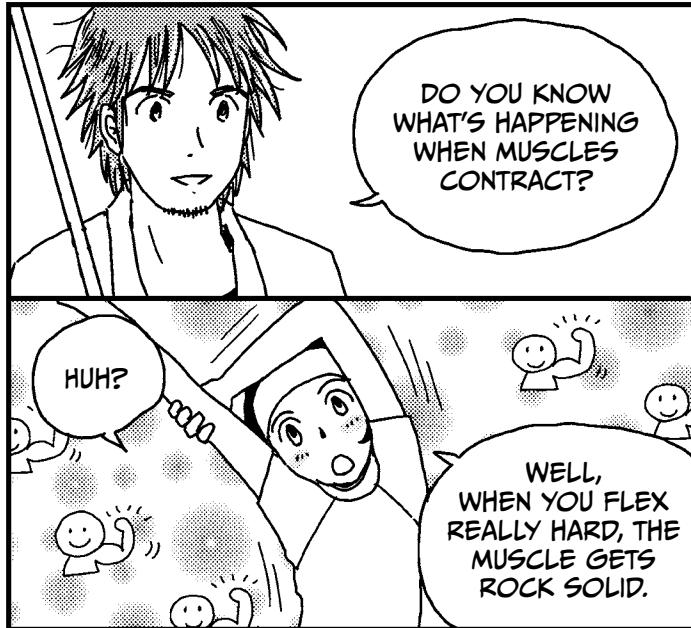


# 8

# THE MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

MUSCLES, BONES, AND JOINTS





NO, NO, A MORE SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION PLEASE!

LET'S ZOOM IN ON THE KIND OF MUSCLE FIBERS YOU'D FIND IN YOUR ARM.

HERE'S A CLOSE-UP OF A GROUP OF SKELETAL MUSCLE FIBERS.\*

LOOK! YOU CAN SEE A HORIZONTAL STRIPED PATTERN.

Muscle fiber  
THIS PATTERN IS CALLED STRIATION.



\* THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF MUSCLE, SHOWN IN THE TABLE BELOW.

**Skeletal Muscles**

These muscles are attached to bones. They are also called *voluntary muscles* since they can be consciously moved.

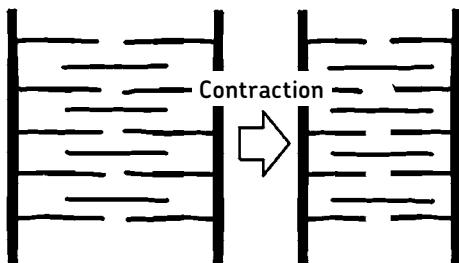
**Smooth Muscles**

These muscles are found in blood vessels and various internal organs. They are called *involuntary muscles* since they cannot be consciously controlled. Unlike skeletal and cardiac muscle, they have no striations.

**Cardiac Muscles**

These are the muscles in the heart. They repeatedly contract and expand rhythmically without any conscious control.

IF WE ZOOM IN FURTHER ON THE HORIZONTAL STRIATION, WE CAN SEE A CONFIGURATION OF COMB-SHAPED PIECES ON EITHER SIDE, WITH ALTERNATING SLITS IN THE MIDDLE.



WHEN THE MUSCLE CONTRACTS, BOTH SIDES SLIDE TO THE MIDDLE.

THAT EXPLAINS WHY MUSCLES BULGE WHEN YOU FLEX THEM, RIGHT? IT'S SORT OF LIKE WHEN YOU SHUFFLE CARDS.

THAT'S RIGHT!

SO WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THE ENERGY COMES FROM TO CONTRACT THE MUSCLES?

I KNOW!

ENERGY IS PRODUCED BY BREAKING DOWN ATP.

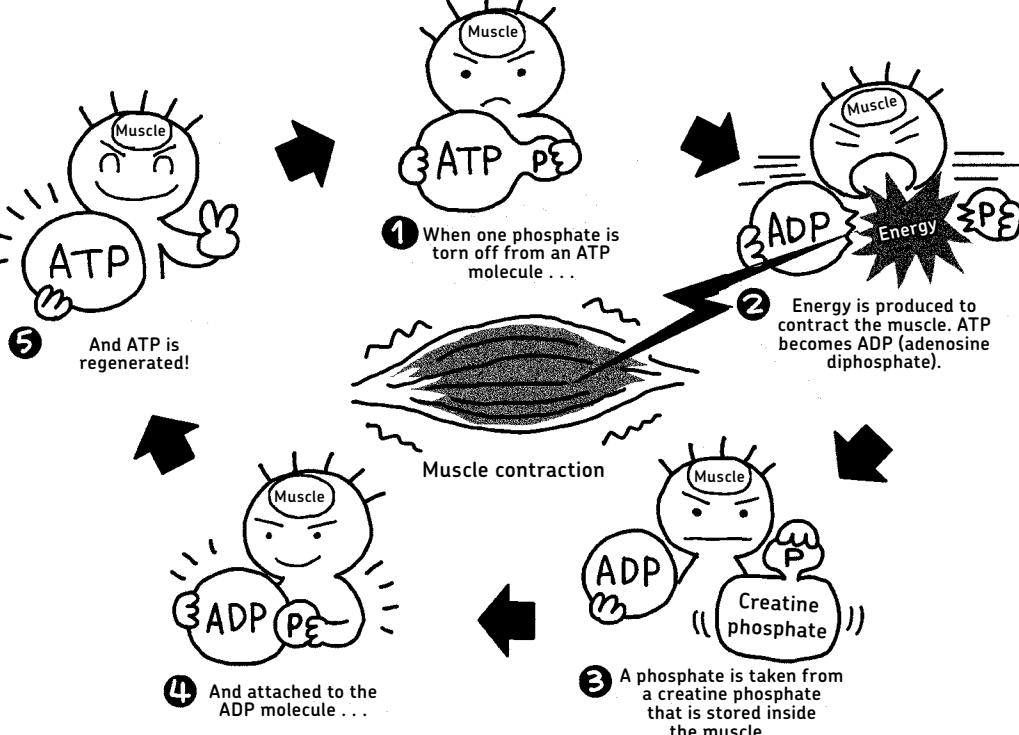
WONDERFUL! AND REMEMBER, ATP IS PRODUCED BY THE CITRIC ACID CYCLE.\*

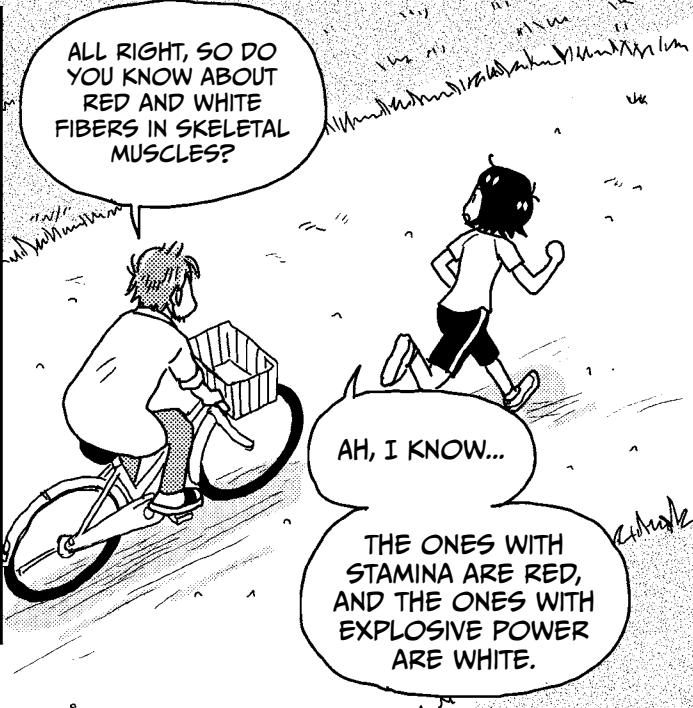
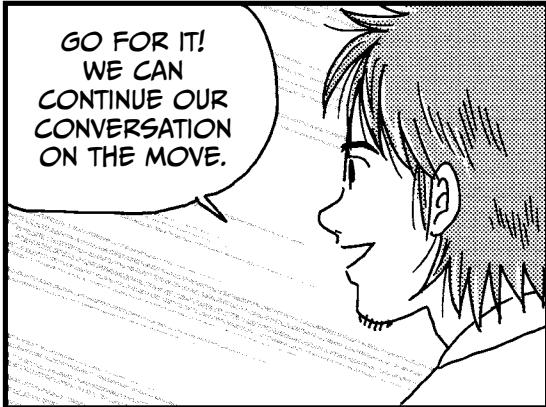
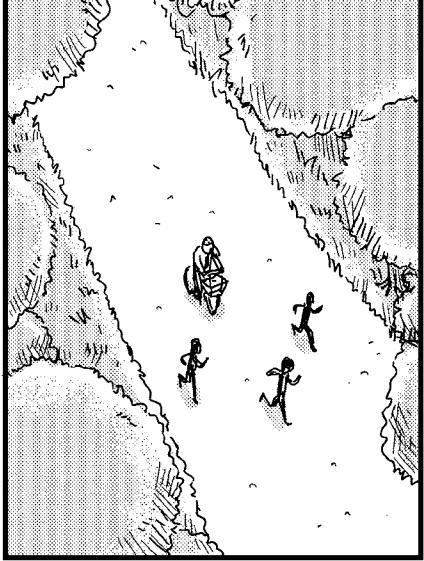
\* SEE "ATP AND THE CITRIC ACID CYCLE" ON PAGE 74.

ATP STANDS FOR ADENOSINE TRIPHOSPHATE, A MOLECULE THAT CONTAINS THREE PHOSPHATE GROUPS. WHEN A PHOSPHATE IS BROKEN OFF, IT RELEASES ENERGY THAT CAN POWER MUSCLE CONTRACTION.

MUSCLES CAN ALSO USE CREATINE TO REGENERATE ATP IN SHORT BURSTS.

## Muscles Are Powered by ATP





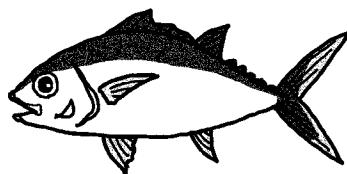
THAT'S RIGHT!  
I ALWAYS THINK OF  
FISH TO HELP ME  
REMEMBER.



RED MUSCLE FIBERS  
(ALSO CALLED SLOW-TWITCH FIBERS) CONTAIN LOTS OF MYOGLOBIN,\* WHICH RECEIVES AND STORES OXYGEN. RED MUSCLE CAN USE THAT OXYGEN TO GENERATE SUSTAINED ENERGY.

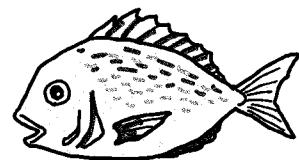
WHITE MUSCLE FIBERS  
(CALLED FAST-TWITCH FIBERS) HAVE MUCH LESS MYOGLOBIN, BUT THEY CAN CONTRACT IN SHORT, POWERFUL BURSTS USING ANAEROBIC ENERGY (ENERGY PRODUCED WITHOUT OXYGEN).

Red Muscle



- Migratory fish such as tuna have more red muscle for sustained swimming.
- Red muscle has lots of myoglobin.

White Muscle



- Fish with white muscle, such as sea bream, mostly swim in quick bursts.
- White muscle has little myoglobin.

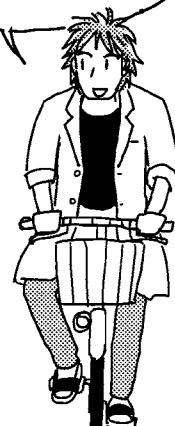
\* MYOGLOBIN IS A CHROMOPROTEIN THAT BINDS TO OXYGEN AND IRON. THESE GIVE IT A RED PIGMENT, MUCH LIKE HEMOGLOBIN IN THE BLOOD.

YOUR FRIENDS  
BACK THERE  
DON'T HAVE MUCH  
STAMINA.

THEIR MUSCLES  
MUST BE MOSTLY  
WHITE, DON'T YOU  
THINK?

HA! IN HUMANS,  
SKELETAL MUSCLES HAVE A  
MIX OF RED MUSCLE FIBERS  
WITH LOTS OF MYOGLOBIN  
AND WHITE MUSCLE FIBERS  
WITH LITTLE MYOGLOBIN.

THE PROPORTION  
DIFFERS FROM PERSON  
TO PERSON.

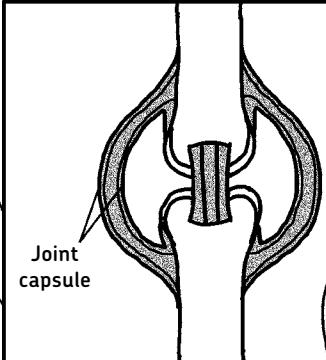
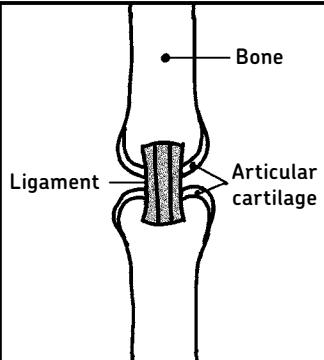


## JOINTS

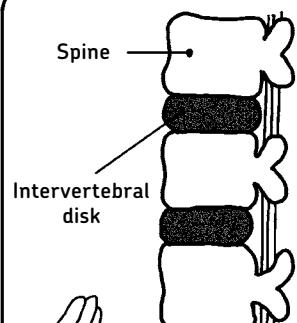


A JOINT IS WHERE TWO OR MORE BONES COME INTO CONTACT. THE BONES ARE CONNECTED BY LIGAMENTS AND HAVE CARTILAGE IN BETWEEN TO REDUCE CHAFING.

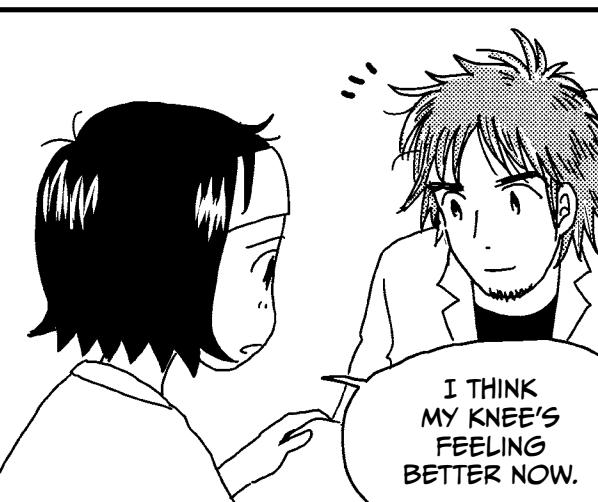
THE ENTIRE JOINT IS ENVELOPED IN A CAPSULE, WHICH CONTAINS SYNOVIAL FLUID AS A LUBRICANT.



SOME JOINTS HAVE EXTRA CUSHIONING, TOO. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INTERVERTEBRAL DISKS ACT AS CUSHIONS BETWEEN JOINTS IN THE SPINE.



THE SPINE IS REALLY AMAZING! IT'S REMARKABLY FLEXIBLE AND STRONG, AND IT PROTECTS THE SPINAL CORD ALL AT THE SAME TIME.



I THINK MY KNEE'S FEELING BETTER NOW.



IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT PROPERLY, IT WILL BE VERY SORE LATER.

OKAY, I'LL REST IT.  
DIFFERENT KINDS  
OF JOINTS MOVE IN  
DIFFERENT WAYS,  
RIGHT?

MY SHOULDER CAN  
ROTATE ROUND AND ROUND,  
BUT MY KNEE CAN ONLY  
BEND AND STRETCH.

ROUND  
AND ROUND

BEND AND  
STRETCH

SO MUCH FOR  
TAKING A REST...

THAT'S RIGHT. A JOINT'S  
RANGE OF MOTION  
DEPENDS ON THE SHAPE  
OF THE BONES.

YOUR SHOULDER HAS  
A ROUND BALL JOINED TO A  
ROUND SOCKET, SO IT CAN  
ROTATE ROUND AND ROUND.

THIS TYPE OF JOINT  
IS CALLED A BALL-  
AND-SOCKET JOINT.

Ball-and-Socket Joint

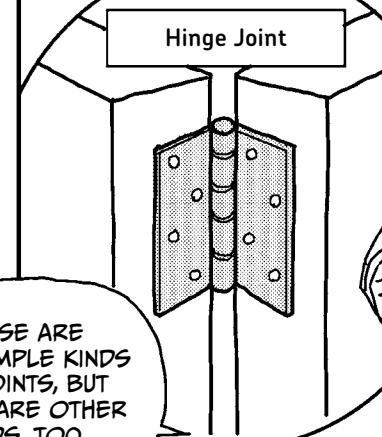


THE KNEE IS MORE LIKE  
A DOOR HINGE: IT CAN  
FLEX AND EXTEND BUT  
NOT ROTATE.

SAME WITH OUR  
FINGER JOINTS.

THIS KIND OF JOINT IS  
CALLED A HINGE JOINT.

Hinge Joint



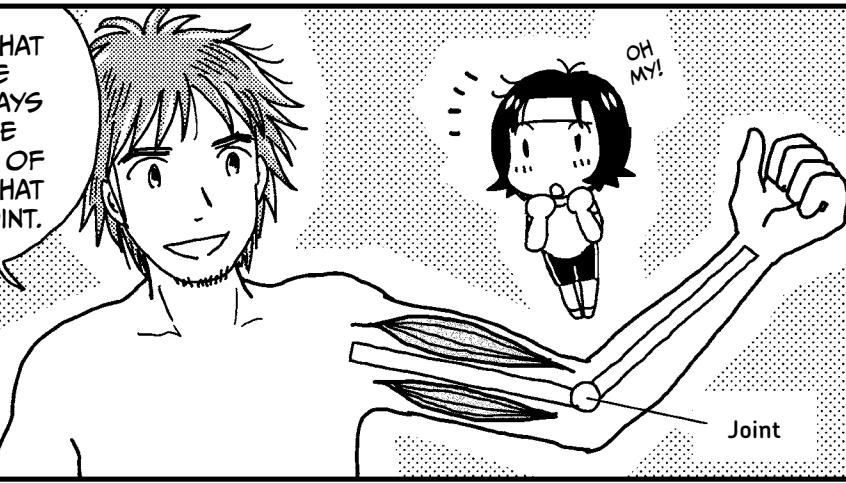
THESE ARE  
TWO SIMPLE KINDS  
OF JOINTS, BUT  
THERE ARE OTHER  
KINDS, TOO.

FINALLY,  
SOME TERMS  
THAT ARE NICE  
AND INTUITIVE.

THAT'S EASY  
ENOUGH.



THE MUSCLES THAT FLEX A HINGE JOINT ARE ALWAYS FOUND ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE MUSCLES THAT EXTEND THE JOINT.



FOR EXAMPLE, THE MUSCLE THAT BENDS THE ELBOW IS ATTACHED TO THE FRONT OF THE ARM, AND THE ONE THAT STRAIGHTENS THE ELBOW IS ATTACHED TO THE BACK.

THESE ARE CALLED THE FLEXOR AND EXTENSOR MUSCLES, RESPECTIVELY.

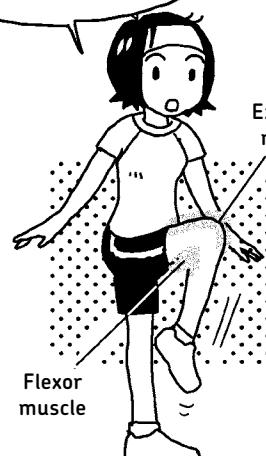
Antagonistic Muscles

Flexor muscle

Extensor muscle

WHOA...  
MUSCLES THAT WORK IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS LIKE THIS ARE CALLED MUTUALLY ANTAGONISTIC MUSCLES. YOUR KNEE HAS THEM, TOO.

FLEXOR MUSCLES BEND MY RIGHT LEG IN...

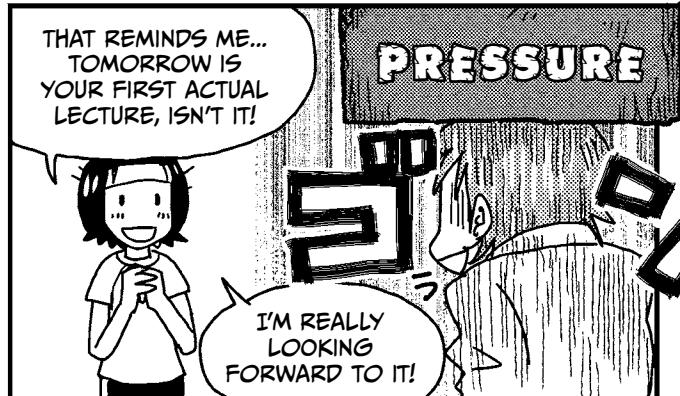
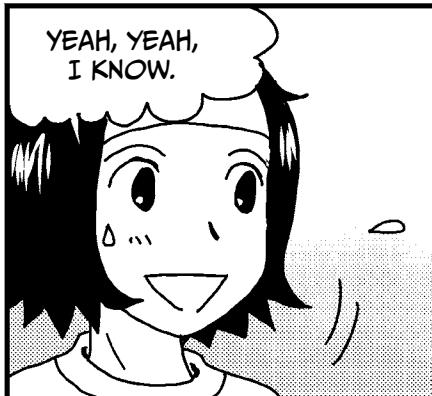


AND EXTENSOR MUSCLES STRETCH IT OUT...



I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING THE HOKEY POKEY!





# EVEN MORE ABOUT MUSCLES AND BONES!



Let's talk a bit about how the body generates heat. Your body is constantly extracting energy from oxygen and food and burning that energy, releasing heat. Your body produces and radiates heat even when you're sleeping or sitting at your desk studying for a test. The more energy you use, the more heat is generated, so your body gets much warmer when you start exercising, as shown in Figure 8-1.



Figure 8-1: Your body generates heat even when you're sleeping, and the more active you are, the more heat it generates.

## REGULATING BODY TEMPERATURE



You've probably noticed that when you exercise, your body heats up. That's because heat is produced when skeletal muscles contract. When it's cold, your muscles contract rapidly and you shiver (see Figure 8-2). This produces heat that the blood carries throughout the body to maintain the body's temperature.

Skeletal muscles are the main producers of heat in the body, but they aren't the only ones. The digestive system, heart, brain, and liver all produce heat as well—in fact, any active cell produces heat to some extent. The body gets warmer after a meal, not only if the food is warm, but also because of the increased activity of the digestive system.

Humans are *homeotherms*, which means our body temperature has to stay within a certain range. If our body temperature is too high or too low, our bodies can't function properly.

### DID YOU KNOW?

A special kind of fat tissue called *brown fat* consists of cells with extra mitochondria, plus a particular type of protein that affects the production of ATP. The result is that as brown fat consumes calories, it produces heat instead of ATP. This type of tissue is particularly common in newborns and hibernating animals.





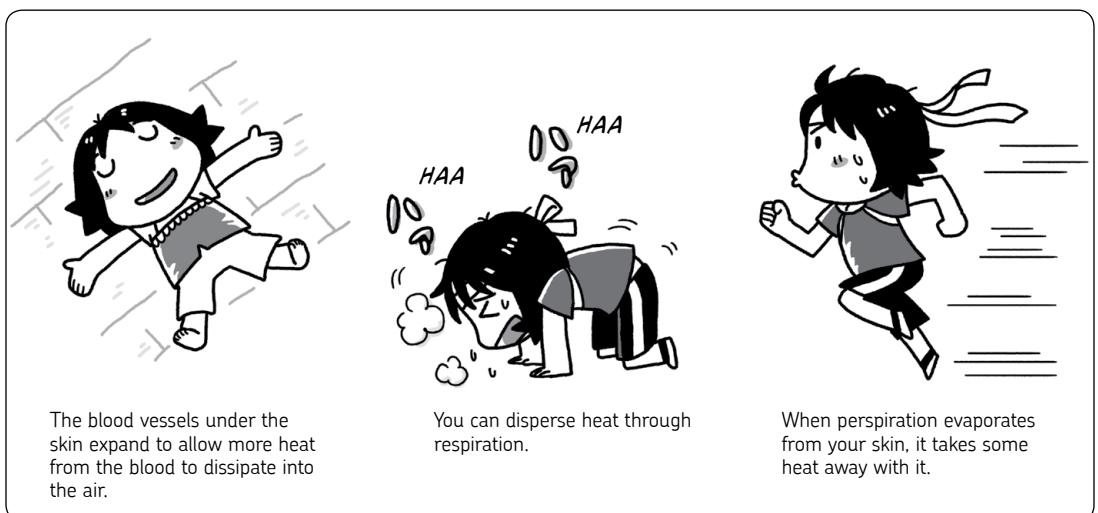
*Figure 8-2: We shiver when we're cold. These rapid muscle contractions produce heat!*



Our bodies have to keep from overheating too, right? Isn't that what perspiration is for, to help disperse heat?



That's right. Your body temperature must be maintained at approximately 96.8–100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (36–38 degrees Celsius). The body cools as heat is dispersed. Heat can leave the body by escaping through the skin, by respiration, and by perspiration (see Figure 8-3). When you exercise vigorously and start heating up, your body starts perspiring more to cool down.



*Figure 8-3: Methods of dissipating body heat*

When it's hot outside, your skin flushes because the blood vessels under your skin expand. This allows more blood to flow out to the surface of the skin so that the heat in your blood can radiate from your skin to the air around you. Perspiration also cools your body through a process called *evaporative cooling*. In fact, when the air temperature is higher than your body temperature, sweating is the only way to eliminate that body heat. Also, sweat glands, like muscles, can get larger and more productive if you use them more often, so exercising regularly will help your body adapt better to the summer heat! It's important to stay hydrated when it's hot out, because your body loses a lot of liquid as it sweats.



Do you know why the body can't function at a temperature higher than 107.6 degrees Fahrenheit (42 degrees Celsius)?



Hmm . . . why is that?



If the body temperature exceeds 107.6 degrees Fahrenheit, the proteins in the body begin to degenerate, and the body can no longer function. (In fact, old mercury thermometers often only go up to this temperature!)

The body's temperature is regulated by the thermoregulatory center of the hypothalamus. The hypothalamus uses several mechanisms to maintain body temperature. When you're too cold, the posterior portion of the hypothalamus coordinates responses such as shivering, controlling blood flow to the skin, and secreting hormones like norepinephrine and epinephrine. When you're too hot, the anterior hypothalamus coordinates the opposite responses.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The carotid artery, axillary artery, and femoral artery are three thick arteries that run near the surface of the body in the neck, armpit, and groin, respectively. Cooling or warming these areas can have a strong impact on body temperature by changing the temperature of the blood as it flows through the arteries.



## BONES AND BONE METABOLISM



The main role of the approximately 206 bones in the human body is structural support. If there were no bones, the body would collapse, and it wouldn't be able to move. But this is not the only role that bones play. They also store calcium, and they contain bone marrow, which creates new blood cells.

## Bone Marrow

Bone marrow is found inside our bones. If you gathered all the bone marrow in a single human body together, it would be about the same size as the liver. Marrow is full of *progenitor cells*, which eventually specialize into specific types of blood cells, like red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. This ability of progenitor cells to morph into whatever specific cells the body needs is an active area of interest to stem cell researchers who want to find a way to treat disease with unspecialized, multipurpose cells that can regenerate damaged organs.

Blood cells are constantly being created in the marrow of flat bones like the pelvis and sternum, but long and narrow bones, like those in the legs and arms, don't produce many blood cells. In fact, long bones only produce blood until around 20 years of age. After that time, the marrow becomes inactive and loses its red coloration, and the red marrow becomes yellow marrow.

When a fetus is developing in the womb, its blood cells are created in the liver and spleen. These organs are able to resume the production of blood cells later in life if bone marrow cannot produce enough blood.

Bones are designed to be both strong and lightweight. Many bones use an internal meshwork structure called *trabecular bone*, which looks like a sponge. Trabecular bone (also called *cancellous bone*) is often found at the ends of long bones and in bones with complicated shapes like the shoulder blade (scapula), vertebrae, and pelvis. The strong exterior of bones is made of *cortical bone*, which is much more compact. In the case of a long bone like the femur, the shaft of the bone is cortical bone with a hollow center (called a *medullary cavity*). Cortical and trabecular bone work together to give bones their incredible strength. The types of bone are illustrated in Figure 8-4.

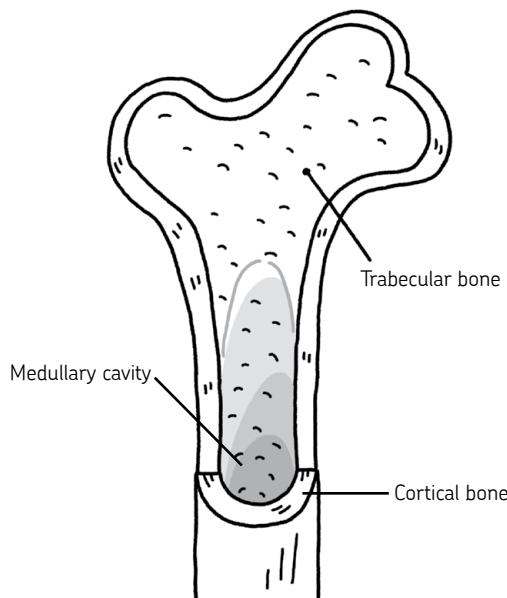


Figure 8-4: Basic structure of bone

At the microscopic level, bone is made up of a framework of a protein called *collagen* (pound for pound, it's as strong as steel). Collagen becomes calcified in such a way that it has flexibility instead of being totally rigid. This ability to bend without snapping helps your bones withstand extremely powerful external forces.



Who knew bones were so complex! Bone is always replacing itself too, isn't it?



That's right. Even after you stop growing, your bones are always dissolving a little at a time (*resorption*), and new bone is being reformed there (*ossification*). It's said that by the time you're about two years old, all the original bones in your body have been replaced.

Bones are dissolved and regenerated by cells called osteoclasts and osteoblasts. *Osteoclasts* dissolve and break down the bone structure little by little. *Osteoblasts* regenerate the bone by attaching calcium. This whole process is called *bone metabolism*, which both enables and prunes bone growth, always keeping the microscopic structure in order (see Figure 8-5).

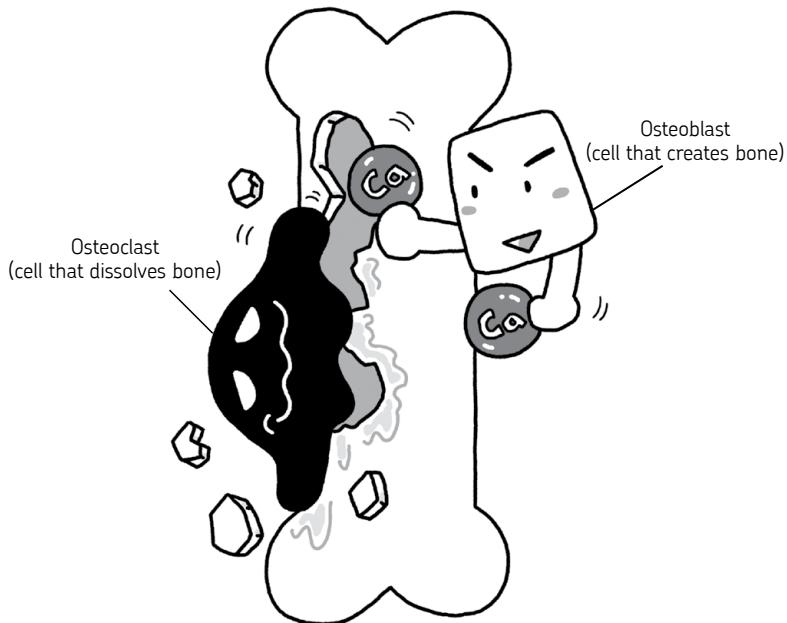


Figure 8-5: Osteoclasts and osteoblasts at work

### DID YOU KNOW?

Bone contains 99 percent of the calcium in the human body. Bone metabolism has a close relationship with estrogen, which slows the resorption of bone. As a result, after menopause—when women produce significantly less estrogen—women are vulnerable to dangerous bone loss called *osteoporosis*, which can leave bones brittle.



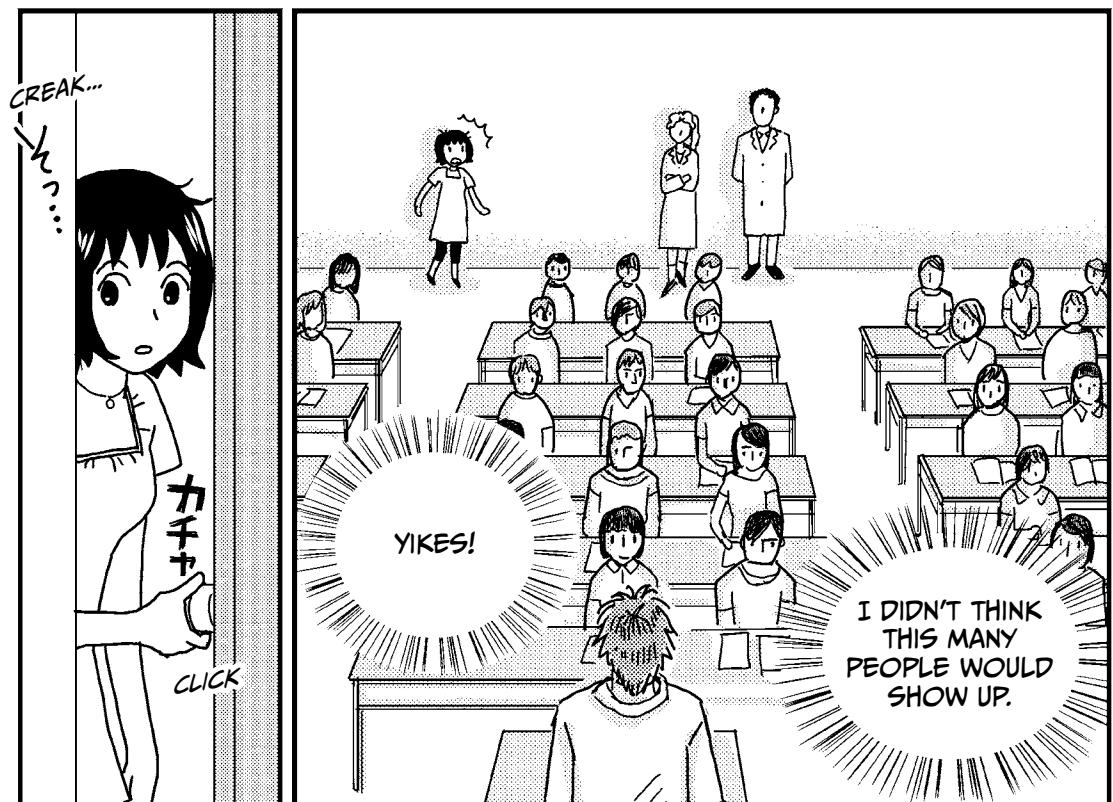
Of course, when osteoclasts break down bone, they aren't just being a nuisance. They remove old bone that has developed microscopic cracks over time. They also extract calcium from bones in order to maintain the correct concentration of calcium in your blood.

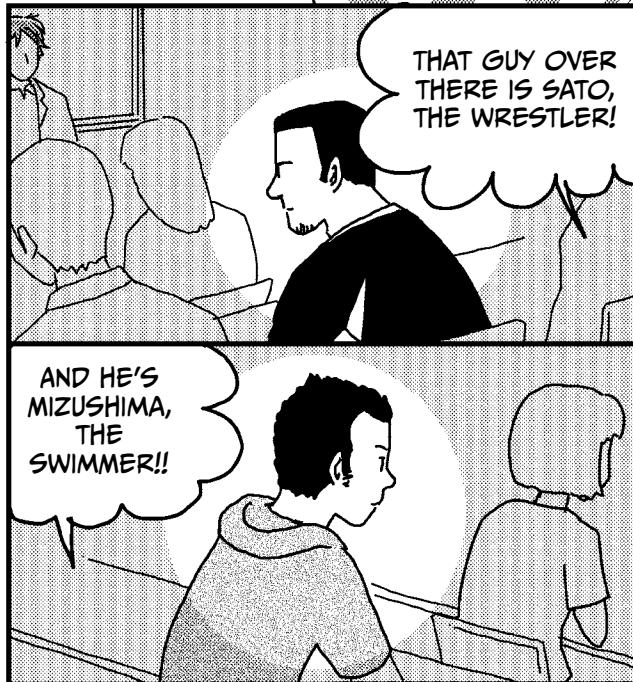
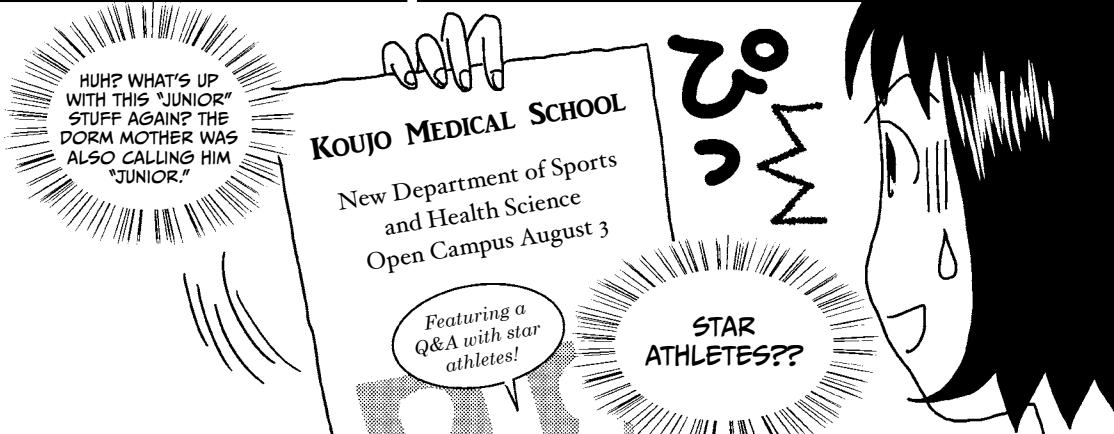
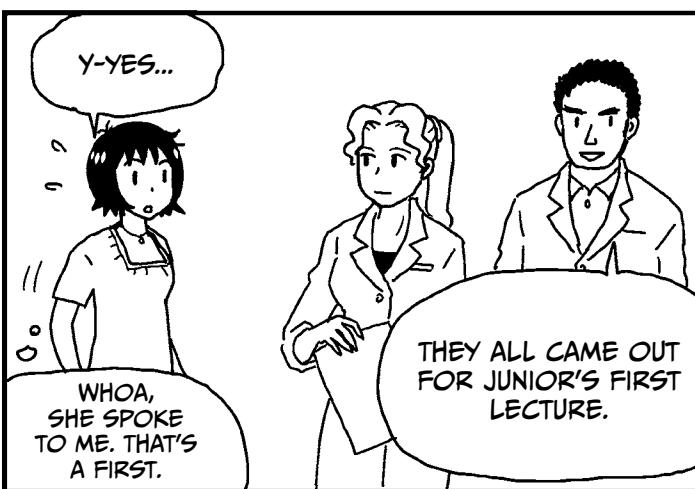


# 9

# CELLS, GENES, AND REPRODUCTION

STORING AND REPLICATING  
BIOLOGICAL BLUEPRINTS



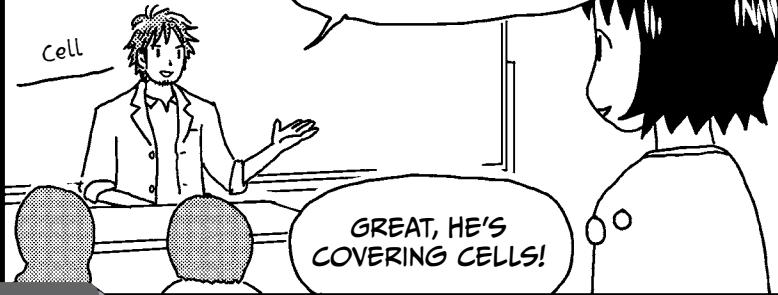


CELLS ARE THE SMALLEST UNITS OF LIFE AND ARE OFTEN CALLED THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE HUMAN BODY.



OUR BODIES CONTAIN TRILLIONS OF CELLS.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF CELLS HAVE DIFFERENT SPECIALIZED FUNCTIONS, BUT BY AND LARGE THEY ALL SHARE A BASIC STRUCTURE AS WELL AS BASIC TASKS LIKE CONVERTING NUTRIENTS INTO ENERGY.



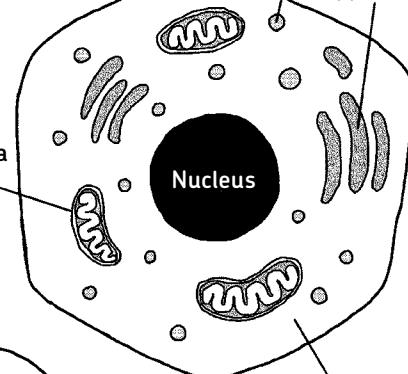
## BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE CELL



THE CELL MEMBRANE IS A SEMIPERMEABLE WALL THAT SURROUNDS THE CELL. THE LIQUID THAT FILLS THE CELL IS CALLED CYTOPLASM.

Ribosome  
Golgi apparatus

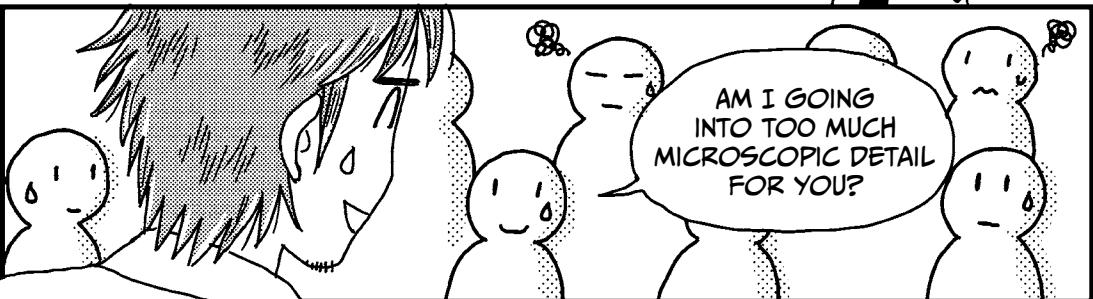
THE CELL ALSO CONTAINS ORGANELLES, WHICH EACH HAVE A UNIQUE ROLE.



MITOCHONDRIA PRODUCE ATP, RIBOSOMES HELP ASSEMBLE PROTEINS, AND THE GOLGI APPARATUS STORES AND SECRETES PROTEINS.



THE NUCLEUS STORES GENETIC INFORMATION.



WELL, YOU CAN THINK OF A SINGLE CELL AS SOMETHING LIKE AN AUTOMOBILE FACTORY.

Automobile Factory



THE NUCLEUS IS LIKE THE FILES THAT STORE THE BLUEPRINTS FOR EVERY TYPE OF VEHICLE THAT CAN BE BUILT AT THAT PLANT.

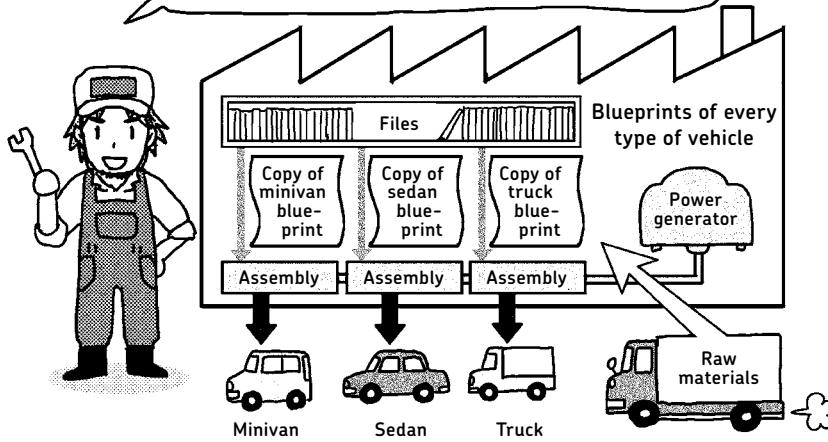
Minivan

Sedan

Truck

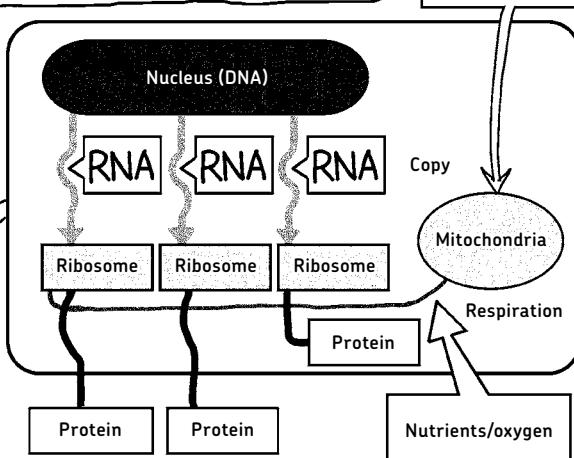
WHEN IT'S TIME TO BUILD A PARTICULAR CAR, THE BLUEPRINT IS COPIED FROM THE FILES AND USED TO ASSEMBLE THAT CAR.

OKAY, I'M WITH YOU SO FAR...



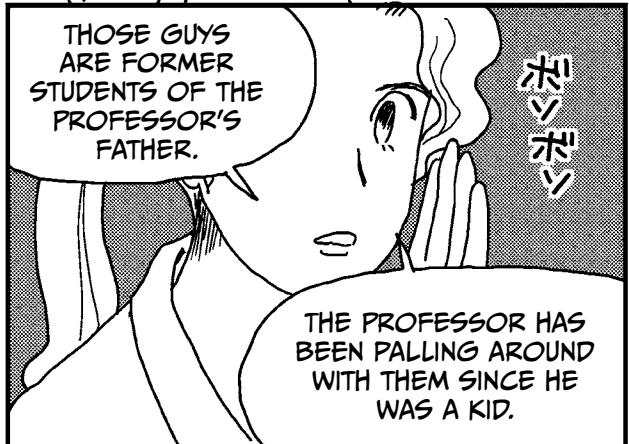
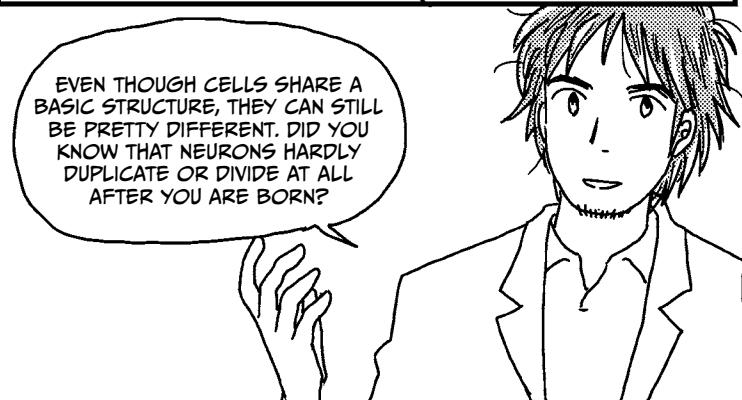
IN A CELL, A SECTION OF DNA IS COPIED TO A STRAND OF RNA, AND RIBOSOMES SYNTHESIZE PROTEINS ACCORDING TO THAT RNA COPY.

Mitochondria supply ATP as energy ("ATP and the Citric Acid Cycle" on page 74).

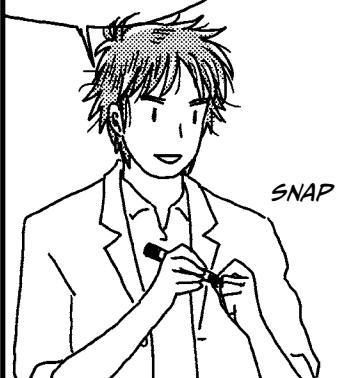


THIS BASIC CELL STRUCTURE IS EXACTLY THE SAME FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING MR. SATO AND MR. MIZUSHIMA WHO CAME TO VISIT US HERE TODAY.





LET'S TALK ABOUT  
HOW CELLS  
ARE GROUPED  
TOGETHER.

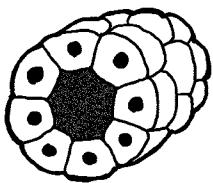
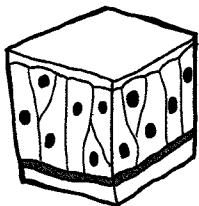


A COLLECTION OF  
CELLS IS CALLED  
TISSUE.

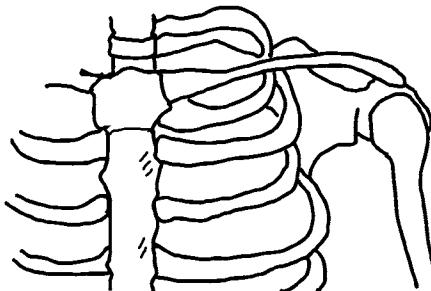
THE FORM AND FUNCTION OF  
A CELL DIFFER DEPENDING  
ON WHAT KIND OF TISSUE IT  
BELONGS TO. TISSUE CAN BE  
CLASSIFIED INTO FOUR KINDS  
AS FOLLOWS.



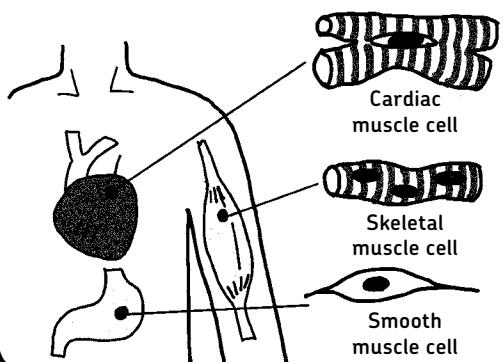
EPITHELIAL TISSUE LINES THE SURFACES  
OF YOUR BODY. IT FORMS THE OUTER  
LAYER OF SKIN AND THE LINING OF  
YOUR ORGANS. THESE CELLS FORM  
PROTECTIVE SHEETS THAT CAN ABSORB  
AND SECRETE FLUIDS.



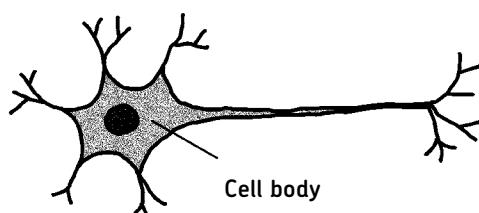
CONNECTIVE TISSUE PROVIDES STRUCTURE  
THROUGHOUT THE BODY. IT'S MOSTLY  
FOUND IN CARTILAGE, BONE, AND FAT.



MUSCLE TISSUE CELLS ARE DESIGNED  
TO CONTRACT. THERE ARE THREE TYPES,  
SHOWN BELOW:



NERVOUS TISSUE CONSISTS OF NEURONS  
AND GLIAL CELLS, WHICH SUPPORT  
NEURONS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH  
NUTRIENTS.



SO CELLS COLLECTED  
TOGETHER BECOME TISSUE,  
AND VARIOUS KINDS OF  
TISSUE ARE COMBINED TO  
FORM ORGANS...

AND ALL THOSE  
ORGANS ADD UP TO  
MAKE A COMPLETE  
HUMAN BODY.

OHHHHHH...

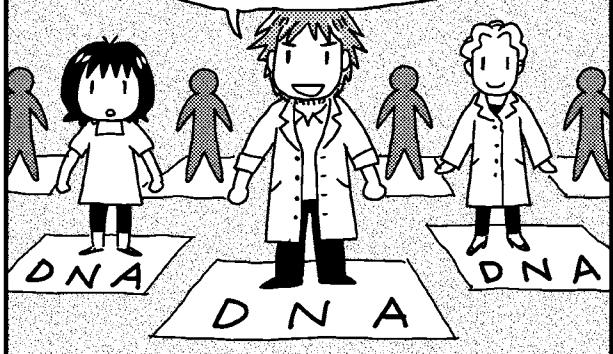


## GENES AND DNA

NOW LET'S MOVE ON TO DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID, BETTER KNOWN AS DNA.

DNA

DNA IS CONTAINED IN THE CELL NUCLEUS, AND IT SERVES AS A COMPLETE HUMAN BLUEPRINT.



THE BLUEPRINTS TELL CELLS HOW TO ASSEMBLE PROTEINS.

PROTEINS ARE EXTREMELY VERSATILE BUILDING BLOCKS.

ENZYMES, ANTIBODIES, AND COLLAGEN, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE ALL MADE OUT OF PROTEINS.

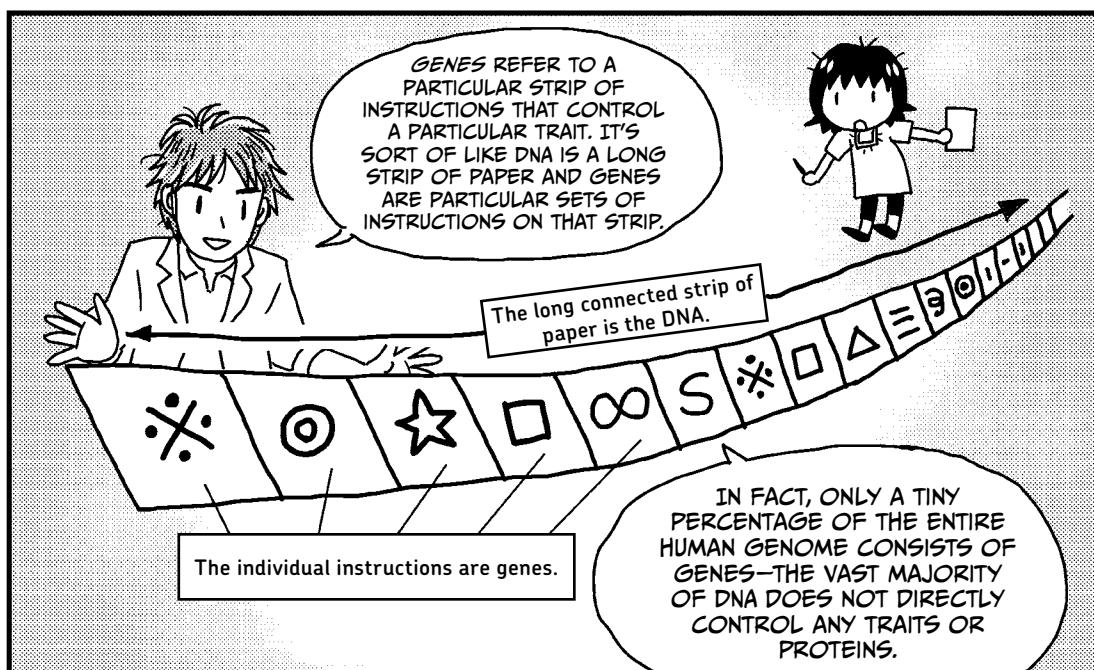
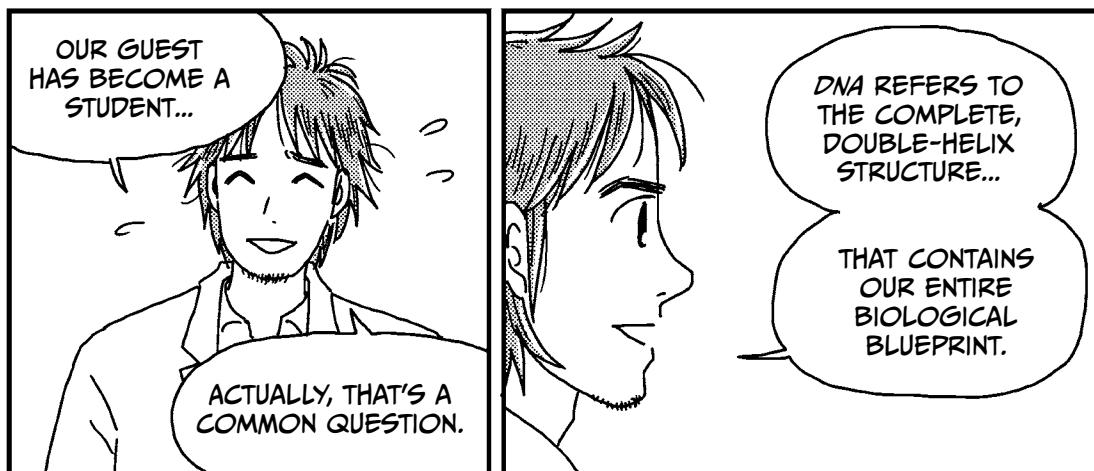
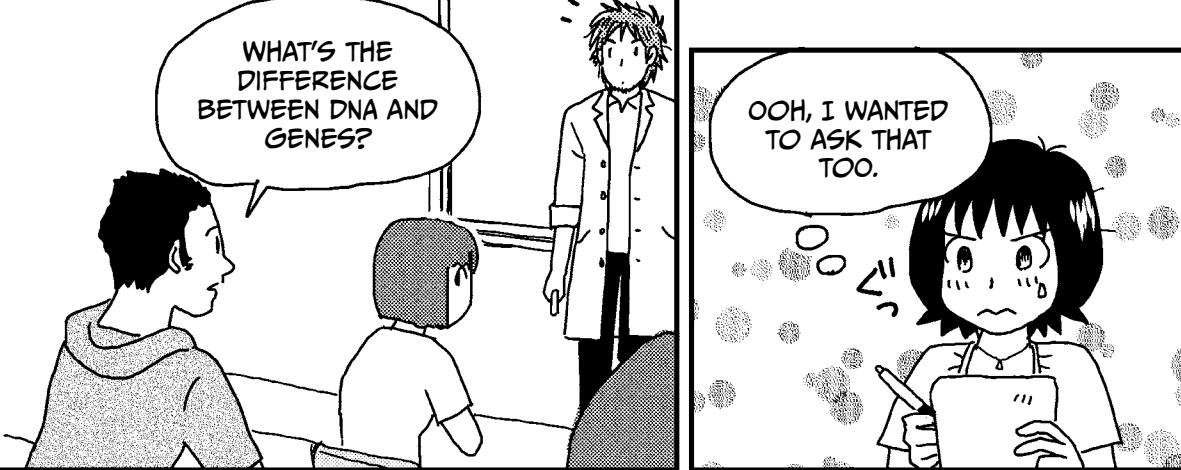
A PROTEIN CONSISTS OF A CHAIN OF AMINO ACIDS.

DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER AND ARRANGEMENT OF AMINO ACIDS, DIFFERENT PROTEINS ARE FORMED.

This is an antibody!

This is an enzyme!

EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR.



SO YOU, OSAMU, ARE GENETICALLY SIMILAR TO OLD PROFESSOR KASEI, RIGHT?

WHAP!

AS THEY SAY—  
IF THE FATHER IS A  
FROG, THE SON WILL  
BE A FROG.\*

THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU.

SNIVEL

SORRY, JUNIOR...  
I MEAN,  
PROFESSOR!

THAT'S RIGHT—HE'S A  
PROFESSOR! AND DON'T  
FORGET HIS FATHER  
IS THE UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENT NOW!

HUH?

JUNIOR?  
PROFESSOR?  
PRESIDENT?

HE'S FROM THE  
SAME KASEI  
FAMILY!?

University  
President Kaisei

Professor Kaisei

YOU JUST NOTICED?

はう！

ACK

\* A JAPANESE PROVERB SIMILAR TO "LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON."

AHEM, SO I WAS SAYING...

COUGH →

EVEN IN THE SPORTS AND HEALTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, WE PURSUE GENETIC RESEARCH.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE INVESTIGATE THE DNA OF FORMER OLYMPIC ATHLETES...

TO LOOK FOR A GENETIC BASIS FOR CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS "EXPLOSIVENESS" OR "ENDURANCE."

IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD ESTABLISH BETTER TRAINING METHODS OR NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS BASED ON RESULTS FROM GENETIC RESEARCH.

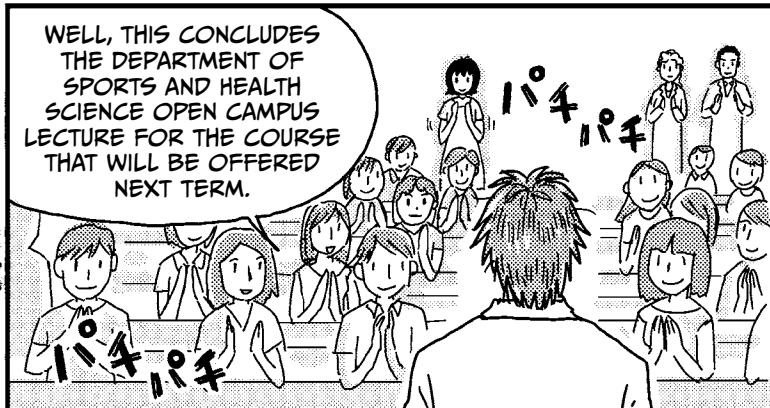
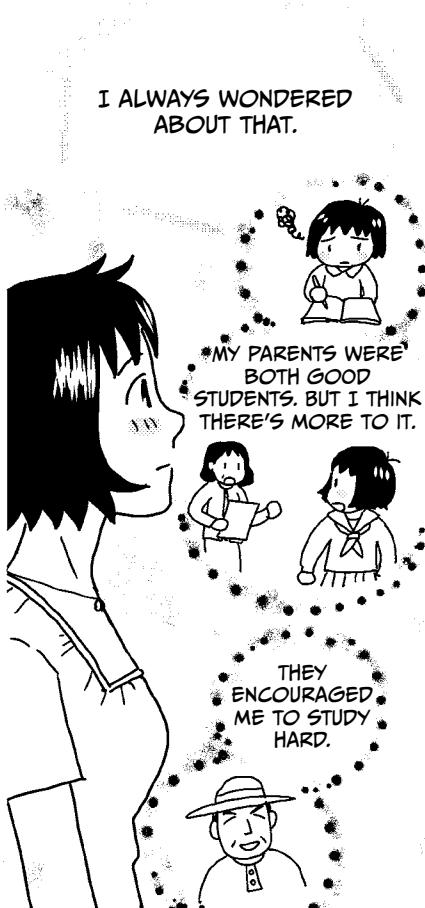
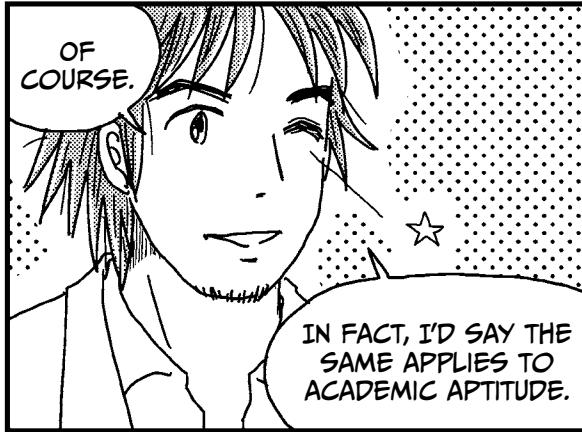
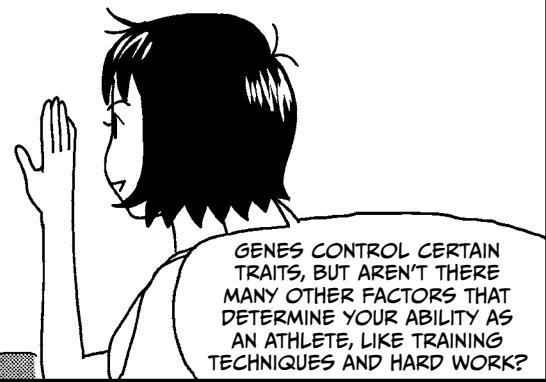
I'D PARTICIPATE IN ANY RESEARCH STUDY FOR YOU, OSAMU!

FLEX

BUT IT'S NOT ALL GENETICS. I WORKED LONG AND HARD TO BE A TOP WRESTLER!

GET OUT OF HERE.

I'M SORRY.



# EVEN MORE ABOUT CELLS, GENES, AND REPRODUCTION!

Heredity is a phenomenon in which characteristics and traits are passed on from cell to cell or from parent to child. In this section, we'll talk about the two mechanisms that allow genes to be passed on to new cells or offspring: cell division and reproduction.

## CELL DIVISION



As cells in the skin, bone, and certain other parts of the body degenerate, new replacement cells are created by *cell division*. Cell division is also the process that allows a single, fertilized egg cell to grow into a baby during pregnancy (which we'll come back to a bit later).

## CHROMOSOMES

Before we talk about cell division, though, we have to learn a bit about chromosomes. *Chromosomes* are very long strands of DNA wrapped around proteins. You can think of them as bundles of DNA packaged neatly to make them more manageable in the cell. Humans have 46 chromosomes in 23 pairs. Having pairs ensures that you have two copies of all the essential DNA your body needs. Cells that have two copies of each chromosome are called *diploid*.

Of the 23 pairs, one pair (two chromosomes) are special sex *chromosomes* (also called *alloosomes*), while the other 22 pairs (44 chromosomes) are called *autosomes*. In females, both sex chromosomes are X chromosomes, while males have one X chromosome and one Y chromosome.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The number of chromosomes differs according to the type of organism. Humans have 46 chromosomes, but dogs have 78 and fruit flies have only 8.



Usually DNA is mostly unwound and scattered all over the nucleus, but when a cell is preparing to divide it packages up each strand of DNA neatly into chromosomes. At that point, we can use a microscope to look at the shape of the 46 chromosomes and tell whether the cell has two Xs or an X and a Y.

### Congratulations, It's a . . .

The sex chromosome of a sperm can be either X or Y, but the sex chromosome of an egg is always X. That means that when an egg is fertilized, the sex chromosome of the sperm determines the sex of the baby—if the sperm has an X chromosome, the child will be female, and if it has a Y chromosome, the child will be male.

## MITOSIS



Hmm, so we can only see the shape of the chromosomes during cell division.



That's right. Normally DNA is arranged in long, thin coils so that the cell can read and use the DNA code, but these coils are bundled up into chromosomes during a type of cell division called *mitosis*. Let's walk through that process.

First, before mitosis begins, DNA is replicated in the nucleus. Then the nuclear membrane disintegrates, and DNA bundles up to form chromosomes shaped like the letter X. Each X contains two strands of identical code, the original and a duplicate, which are side by side and held together at the middle. Those duplicate sets of chromosomes are then lined up in the center of the cell, and each set of duplicate chromosomes is pulled apart by threadlike structures called *microtubules* so that each cell will get only one copy. Finally, the center of the cell squeezes tight until the cell splits. The end result is two identical cells, as shown in Figure 9-1.

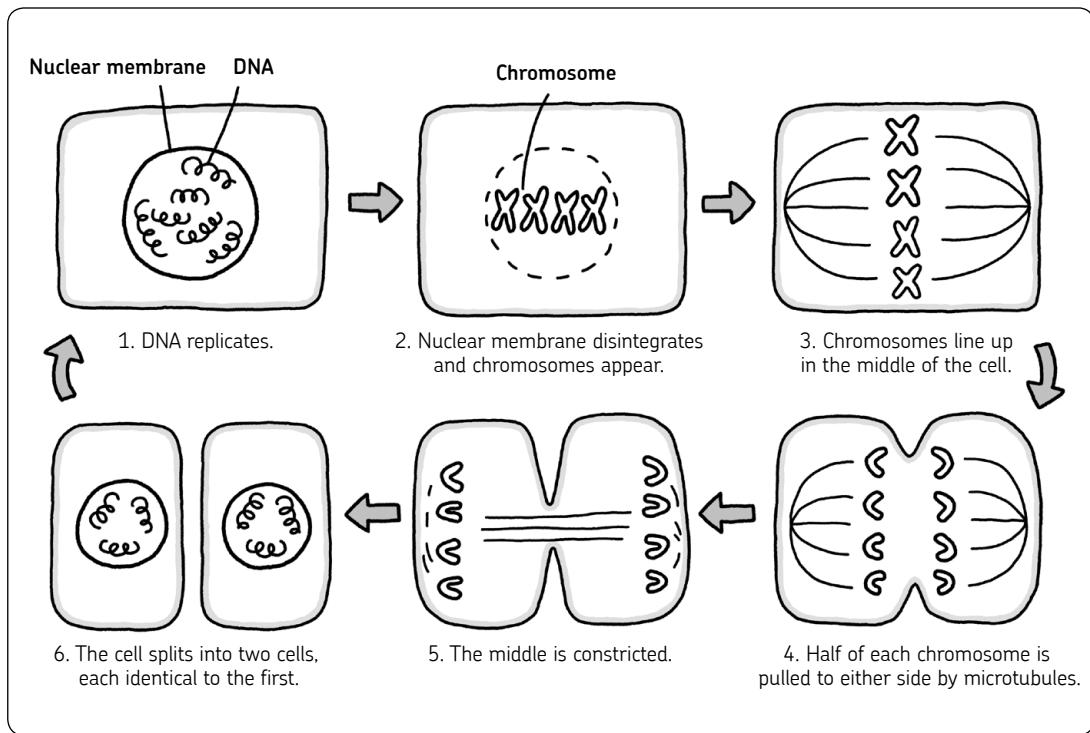


Figure 9-1: Flowchart of mitosis

## MEIOSIS



You know that reproductive cells (also called *germ cells* or *gametes*) undergo special cell division, right?



Right, because egg and sperm cells only need half the chromosomes of a regular body cell. Normal cell division produces cells with the same number of chromosomes as the original cell. Germ cells, however, have half as many chromosomes as a normal cell and are produced through a special kind of cell division called *meiosis*.

Meiosis begins with a cell that has duplicated all its DNA, just as in mitosis. But then, instead of dividing just once, the cell divides twice. The result is four germ cells, each with 23 chromosomes. These germ cells are *haploid* cells, as opposed to diploid cells, which have 23 pairs of chromosomes.

### Interphase

So far we've been talking about how cells divide, called the *division phase*, but most of the time cells are in a stage of *interphase*. In interphase, cells use the information in DNA to grow, collect nutrients, make proteins, and perform their specialized functions in the body. Whenever necessary, a cell in interphase can initiate another division phase to create two cells, which then start in interphase. Together, interphase and the division phase make up the complete cell cycle.

## SEXUAL REPRODUCTION



In order to reproduce, single-celled organisms like bacteria or algae simply divide in two. With this type of reproduction, called *asexual* reproduction, the new, independent organism is exactly the same as the parent. By contrast, almost all multicellular organisms (including humans) rely on sexual reproduction, which produces offspring different from either of its parents.

Sexual reproduction depends on gametes: the sperm and egg cells. Sperm cells are produced in the testicles of a male, while egg cells are produced and matured in the ovaries of a female.



The testicles produce new sperm all the time, but the number of eggs in the ovaries is finite, isn't it?



Females are born with one to two million *ovarian follicles*. Each ovarian follicle is a group of cells that surround a single, immature egg cell (also called an *ovum*). After the onset of puberty, each month a single ovarian follicle matures and becomes ready for fertilization, while several thousand other ovarian follicles are steadily reabsorbed by the body. Eventually the supply of ovarian follicles runs out.

When an ovarian follicle matures, the egg cell is released from the follicle and pushed out of the ovary. This process is called *ovulation* (see Figure 9-2). The egg cell is then

guided by the *fimbriae*, a kind of fringe of tissue, into the *fallopian tube* where it might encounter sperm. Meanwhile, the ovarian follicle that produced the egg changes shape and becomes a *corpus luteum*. If the egg cell encounters a sperm cell, the egg is fertilized and will then send a message to the corpus luteum, which will continue to play a crucial role by secreting important hormones to promote pregnancy (see “Sex Hormones” on page 219).

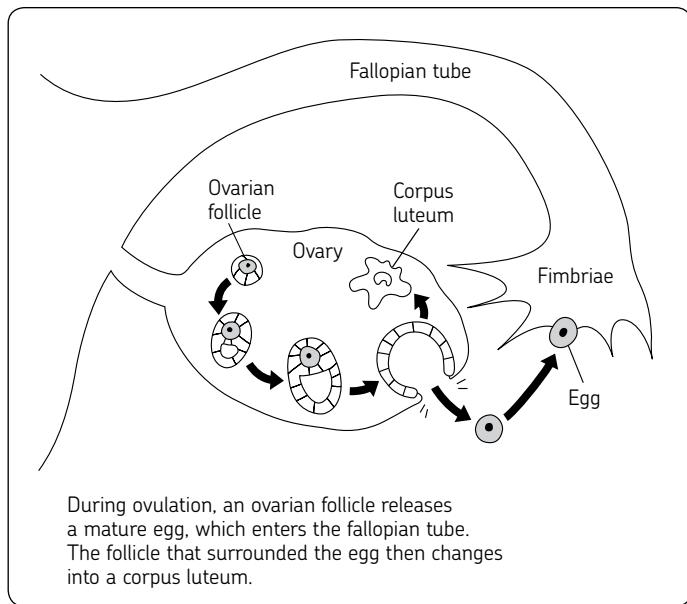


Figure 9-2: The ovulation process

Now let's turn back to the sperm. When sperm cells enter the vagina, a vigorous competition to reach the egg ensues (see Figure 9-3).



Only one sperm can fertilize the egg, right? How many sperm are usually competing?



The number of sperm ejaculated at one time ranges from tens of millions to a hundred million. During the competition, some sperm power ahead while others lose their way and drop out. The number of sperm that typically reach the fallopian tubes is estimated to be in the tens of thousands, and about 100 manage to arrive in the vicinity of the egg. Only one single sperm is capable of ultimately fertilizing the egg, but it's entirely possible that none will make it.

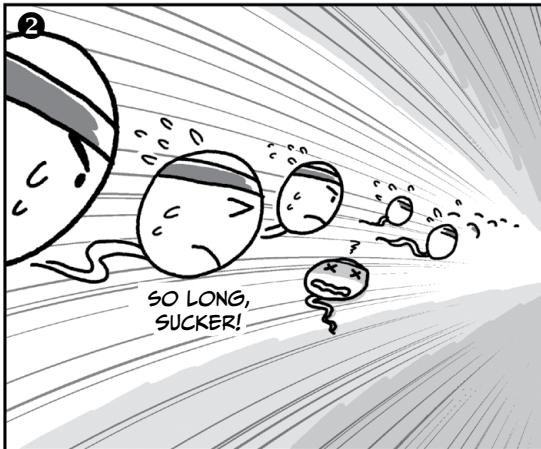
#### DID YOU KNOW?

The lifespan of a mature egg is between half a day and one day, and the life span of a sperm is approximately two to three days.

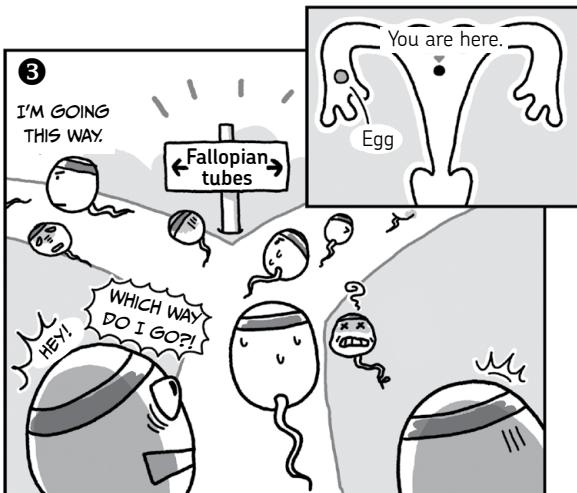




Between 10 and 100 million sperm start at the same time.



The sperm race to the womb. Some get lost or die along the way.



Sperm continue to push on after deciding whether to go left or right at the entrance to the fallopian tubes.



Relatively few sperm reach the vicinity of the egg. The very first sperm to reach the egg will fertilize it.

Figure 9-3: The fertilization race



Cilia along the inner surface of the fallopian tube carry the egg to the uterus, and if it's been fertilized, the egg begins many rounds of cell division and starts to grow. The fertilized egg then implants itself wherever it lands on the *endometrium* (the inner wall of the uterus), and that's where it will develop throughout pregnancy, as shown in Figure 9-4.

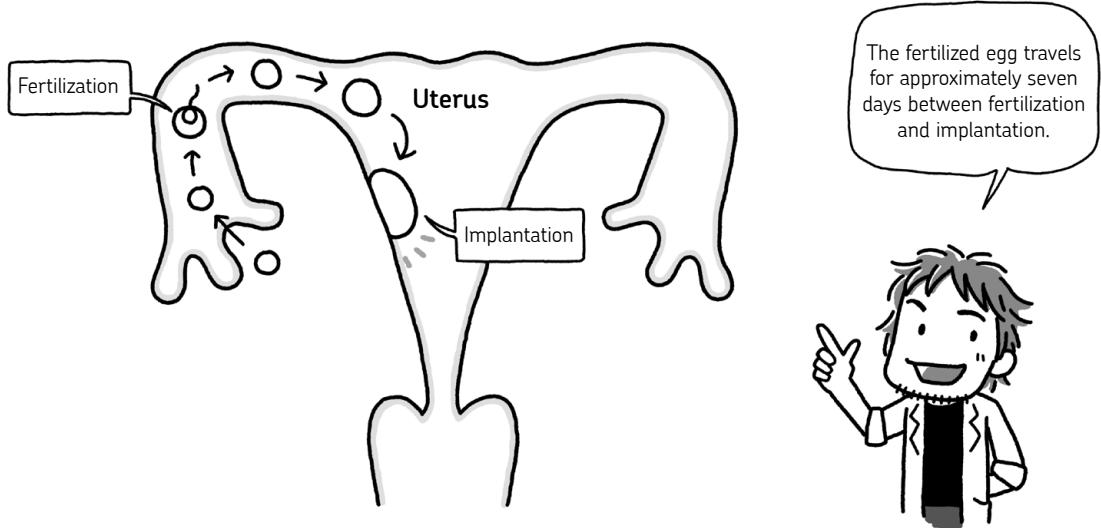


Figure 9-4: From fertilization to implantation



But cell division starts even before the fertilized egg reaches the uterus, right?



That's right. Cell division begins immediately after fertilization, and then the cells start to specialize around the time of implantation in the uterus.

### Gestation Period

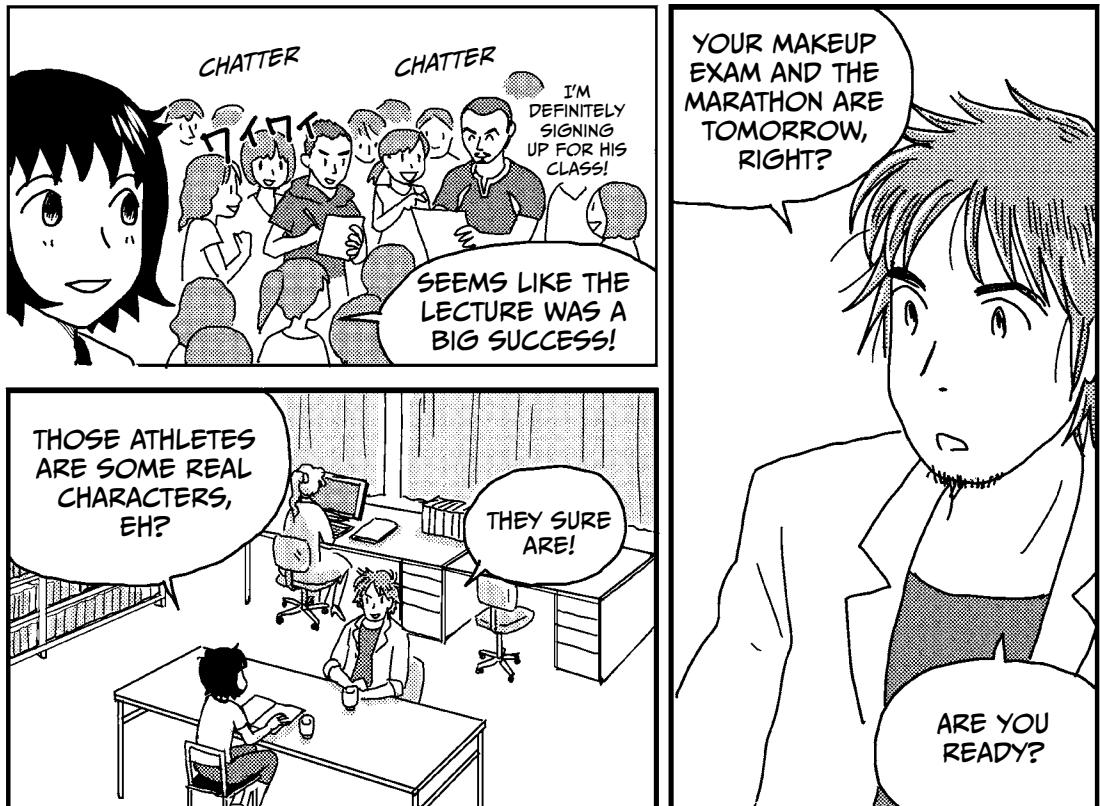
From the time of fertilization, it takes approximately 38 weeks for the fertilized egg to develop into a baby capable of surviving outside the womb. But the pregnancy period is often considered to begin on the first day of the last menstrual period, which is roughly two weeks before ovulation and fertilization occur. That makes for a total timeline of 40 weeks.



# 10

## THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

*SENDING SIGNALS THROUGH  
THE BLOODSTREAM*



NOT REALLY...  
THEY'RE BOTH  
MAKING ME  
FEEL A LITTLE  
ANXIOUS.

I WISH  
I HAD MORE TIME  
TO STUDY THE  
ENDOCRINE SYSTEM.

THERE'S A LOT TO  
REMEMBER ABOUT  
THE ENDOCRINE  
SYSTEM AND A LOT  
OF STUDENTS HAVE  
TROUBLE WITH IT.

I CAN HELP  
THOUGH! LET'S  
START WITH  
A GENERAL  
OVERVIEW.

## WHAT IS THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM?

THE ENDOCRINE  
ORGANS...

SECRETE HORMONES  
THAT REGULATE FUNCTIONS  
THROUGHOUT THE BODY.

MOST OF THESE  
GLANDS HAVE MANY  
FUNCTIONS, BUT  
HERE'S A QUICK  
OVERVIEW.

### Main Human Endocrine Organs

#### Hypothalamus and Pituitary Gland

The hypothalamus links the nervous system and the endocrine system, and keeps the body's temperature and chemistry in balance. The pituitary gland is like a control center—it signals other glands to secrete their hormones.

#### Adrenal Glands

These triangular glands sit on top of the kidneys. They are divided into the adrenal medulla at the center and the adrenal cortex surrounding it.

#### Ovaries (female)

The ovaries secrete estrogen and progesterone and produce ova (egg cells).

#### Thyroid Gland

This butterfly-shaped gland in the neck secretes hormones that regulate metabolism. The parathyroid glands underneath it regulate calcium levels and bone structure.

#### Pancreas

Besides secreting digestive fluids (pancreatic juice), the pancreas also secretes hormones that regulate the uptake and distribution of nutrients throughout the body.

#### Testicles (male)

The testicles secrete androgens (male hormones) and produce sperm.

DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
THE BASICS  
SO FAR?

YES!

THESE ENDOCRINE GLANDS RELEASE HORMONES INTO THE BLOODSTREAM.

HORMONES AFFECT HOW OTHER ORGANS BEHAVE AND CAN HELP YOU ADJUST TO CHANGES IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

ALL OF THIS HAPPENS UNCONSCIOUSLY—YOU DON'T DELIBERATELY CONTROL THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM.

IT SOUNDS SIMILAR TO THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM.

EXCEPT THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM SIGNALS VIA NERVES INSTEAD OF HORMONES.



YES, THAT'S WHY THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM IS SLOWER TO DELIVER SIGNALS.

HORMONES HAVE TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE BLOODSTREAM TO REACH THEIR INTENDED TARGETS.

AH, I SEE...

SO THE PROCESSES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND ENDOCRINE SYSTEM ARE ACTUALLY REALLY DIFFERENT.

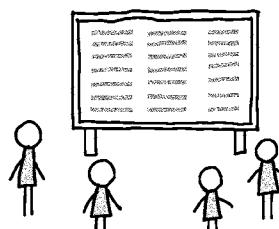
YUP.

THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE SLOWER, AND TEND TO HAVE LONGER LASTING EFFECTS, WHILE THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM HANDLES INSTANT, IMMEDIATE CHANGES.

A SIGNAL FROM THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM IS SORT OF LIKE THE DEPARTURES BOARD AT A TRAIN STATION...

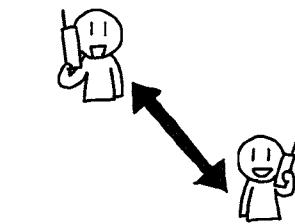
WHILE A NERVE SIGNAL IS MORE LIKE AN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE CALL.

Endocrine System Signal



Information slowly filters out to various targets.

Nervous System Signal



Information is sent quickly from point to point.

WAIT, BUT HOW DO HORMONES SEND SIGNALS TO SPECIFIC ORGANS...

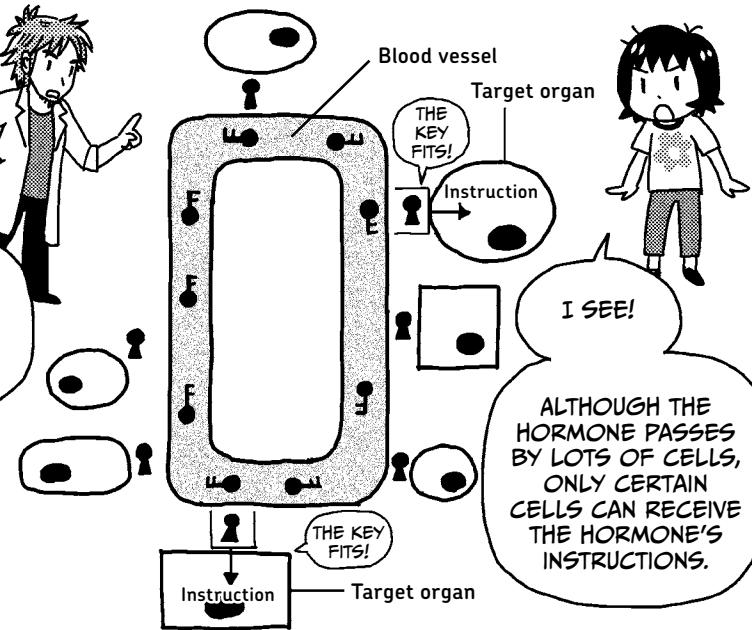
IF THEY ARE JUST FLOATING IN THE BLOODSTREAM?

MAN, YOU REALLY DO HAVE SOME STUDYING LEFT TO DO. LET'S GO A LITTLE DEEPER.

A HORMONE AFFECTS ONLY CERTAIN TARGET INTERNAL ORGANS.

THAT'S BECAUSE ORGAN CELLS HAVE RECEPTORS THAT RESPOND ONLY TO CERTAIN HORMONES.

IT'S SORT OF LIKE A KEYHOLE. A HORMONE ACTS ON AN ORGAN ONLY IF ITS KEY FITS THAT ORGAN'S KEYHOLE.



A SINGLE HORMONE CAN AFFECT MULTIPLE ORGANS, INCLUDING OTHER ENDOCRINE GLANDS, AND EVEN TRACE AMOUNTS OF A HORMONE CAN HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT.

WOW, IT'S A REALLY INTRICATE SYSTEM.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S A HORMONE IMBALANCE?

IT DEPENDS—IT COULD AFFECT ANYTHING FROM MOOD TO BONE GROWTH TO APPETITE.

THAT BRINGS US TO AN IMPORTANT FEATURE THAT KEEPS THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM IN BALANCE...

THE NEGATIVE FEEDBACK MECHANISM!

I KNOW!  
I KNOW!

THAT'S HOW HORMONE LEVELS ARE ADJUSTED IN THE BLOOD. IF THE LEVELS GET TOO HIGH OR TOO LOW...

THE GLANDS ADJUST THEIR SECRETION LEVEL.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. AS AN EXAMPLE...

LOOK AT THE THYROID GLAND HORMONES.

## BALANCING HORMONE LEVELS

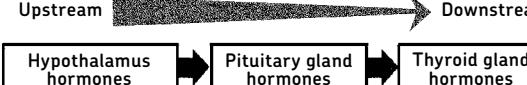
SAY THE HYPOTHALAMUS AND PITUITARY GLAND DETECT THAT THE CONCENTRATION OF THYROID HORMONES IS TOO LOW. IN RESPONSE, THEY SECRETE HORMONES THAT STIMULATE THYROID HORMONES.

LET'S CALL THE HYPOTHALAMUS AND PITUITARY HORMONES UPSTREAM SINCE THEY COME EARLIER IN THE CAUSAL CHAIN.



INCREASE!

I SEE, THEY BOOST THYROID HORMONE SECRETION FURTHER DOWNSTREAM.

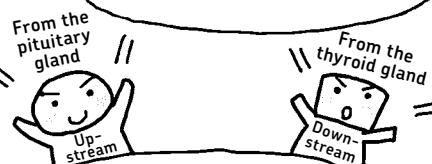


As the upstream hormones increase, the downstream hormones increase in response.

THAT'S CORRECT.

BUT WHEN THE THYROID HORMONE LEVEL GETS TOO HIGH, NEGATIVE FEEDBACK KICKS IN: THE HYPOTHALAMUS AND PITUITARY GLAND DETECT THE OVERABUNDANCE AND REDUCE THEIR SECRETION OF THYROID-STIMULATING HORMONES...

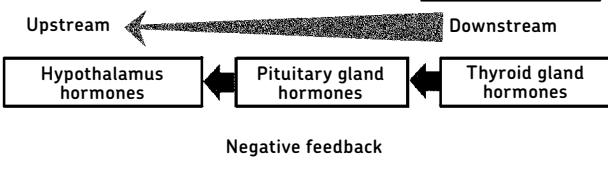
AND THE VOLUME OF THYROID GLAND HORMONES DECREASES IN RESPONSE.



THIS CONSTANT FEEDBACK KEEPS HORMONE LEVELS IN BALANCE. THE LEVEL OF HORMONES FROM UPSTREAM SOURCES LIKE THE HYPOTHALAMUS CONTROLS HORMONE SECRETION DOWNSTREAM IN PLACES LIKE THE THYROID.

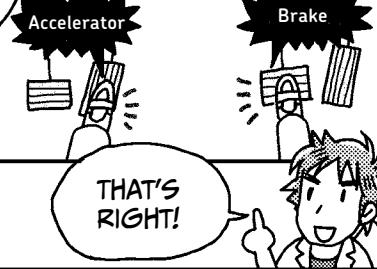
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THROUGH NEGATIVE FEEDBACK, THE HORMONES FROM DOWNSTREAM AFFECT THE HORMONES UPSTREAM.

DECREASE!



IN THIS CASE, HIGH THYROID HORMONE LEVELS TRIGGER THE UPSTREAM GLANDS TO REDUCE SECRETION.

IT'S LIKE HORMONE PRODUCTION CONTINUALLY ACCELERATES AND BRAKES TO STAY NEAR A CONSTANT LEVEL.



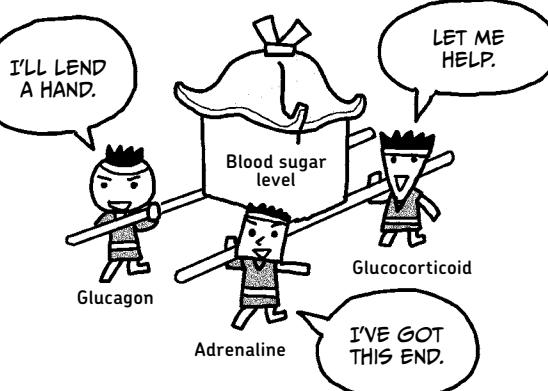
THAT'S RIGHT!

IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT SEVERAL DIFFERENT HORMONES CAN HAVE THE SAME KIND OF EFFECT.

FOR EXAMPLE, SEVERAL DIFFERENT HORMONES CAN INCREASE BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS (PAGE 221) INCLUDING GLUCAGON, ADRENALINE, AND GLUCOCORTICOID.

THEY ALL HAVE A SIMILAR EFFECT ON THE BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL, BUT THEY USE DIFFERENT MECHANISMS.

THEY COME FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES TOO—GLUCAGON IS SECRETED BY THE PANCREAS, WHILE ADRENALINE AND GLUCOCORTICOIDS ARE SECRETED BY THE ADRENAL GLANDS.



Different hormones can contribute to the same outcome.

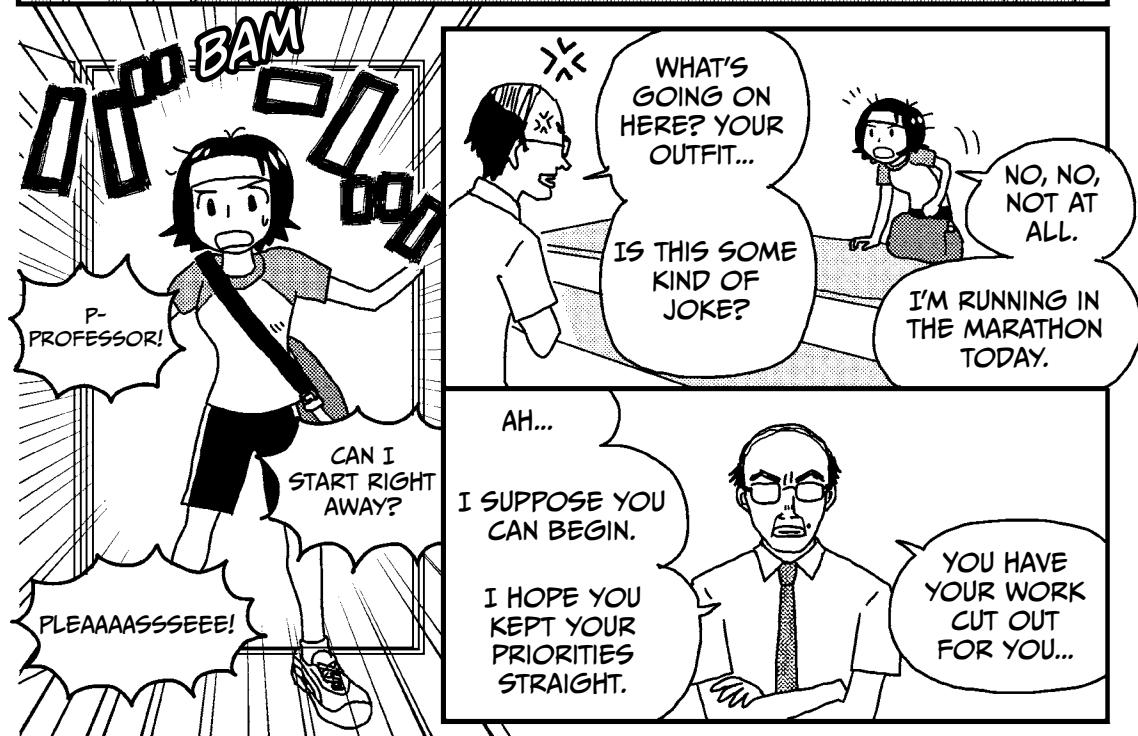
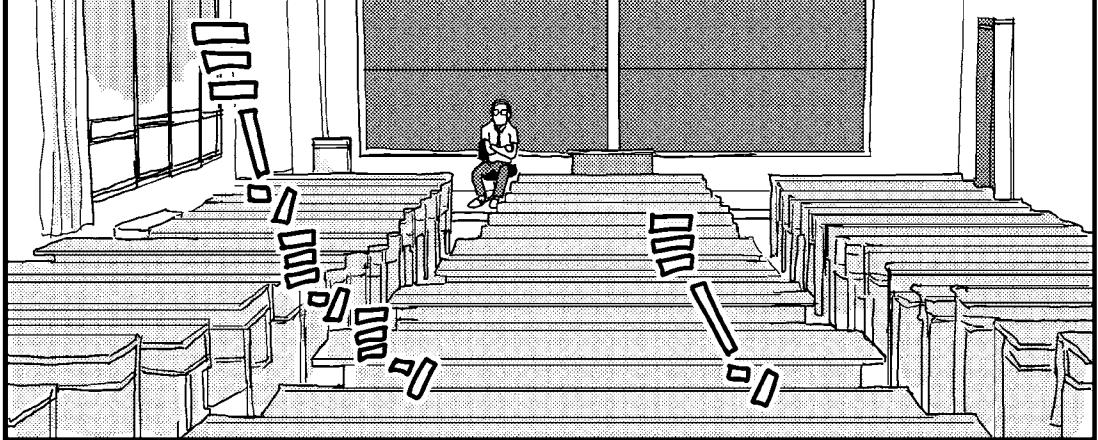
IT'S SORT OF LIKE HOW THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY FOR A TEST! I USED TO FOCUS ON ROTE MEMORIZATION, BUT NOW I'M TAKING MORE TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPTS BEHIND EACH LESSON.

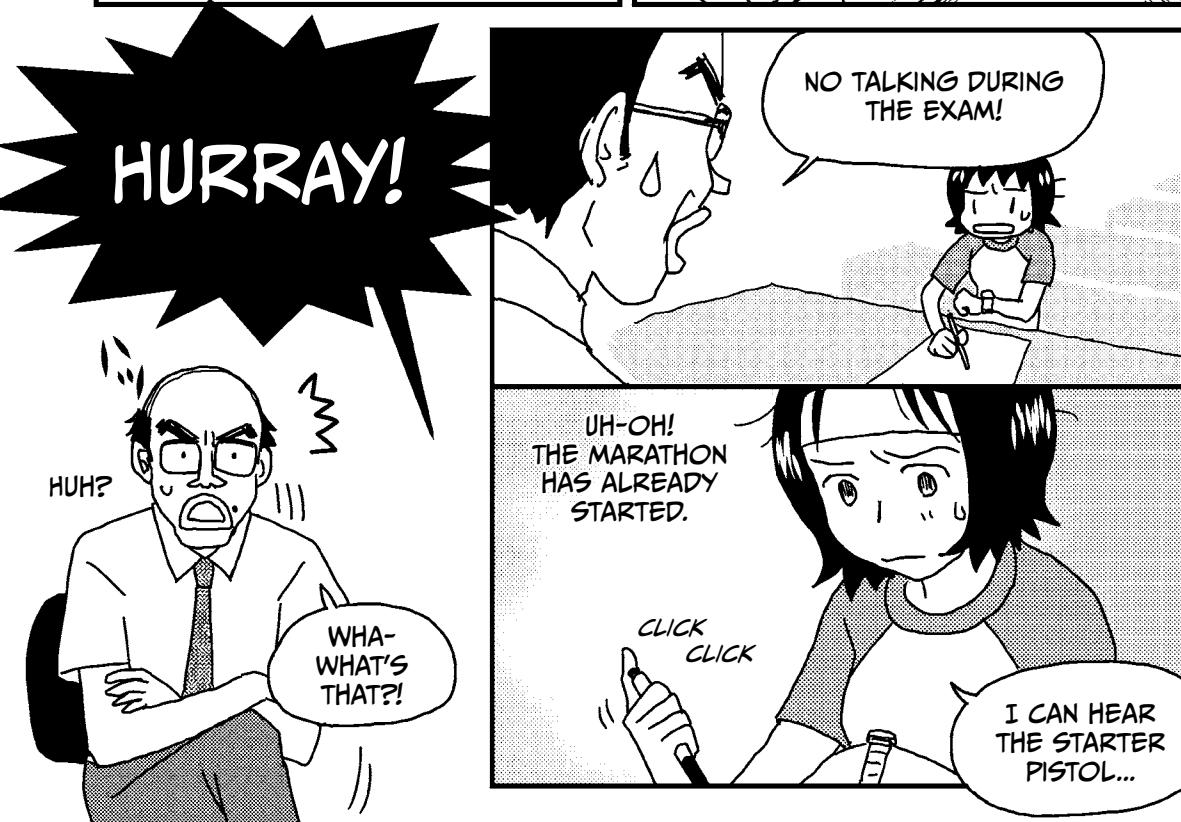
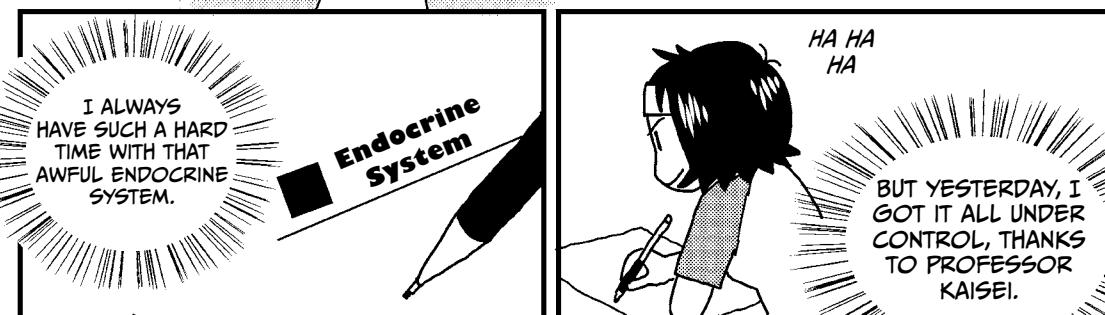
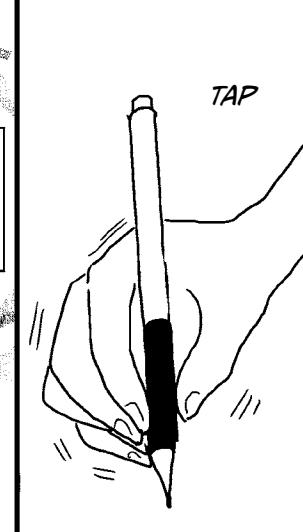
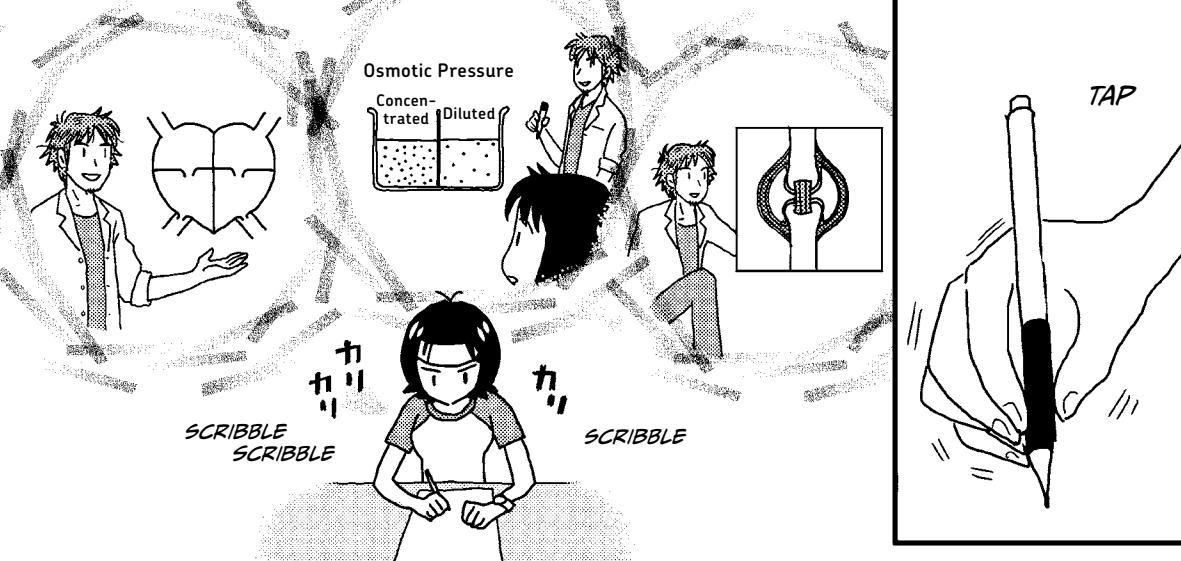
DEEP NOD

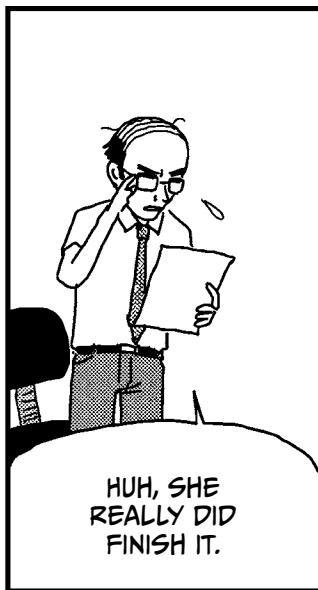
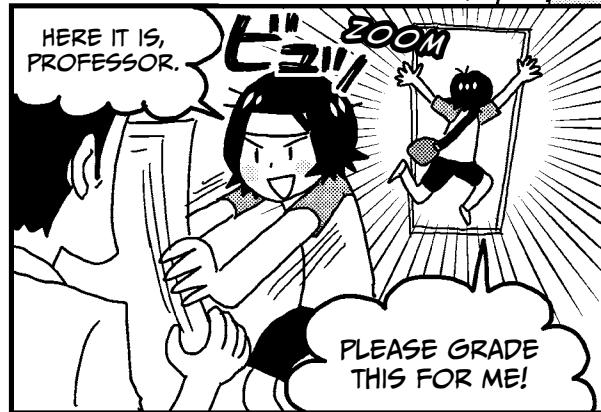
?!?

DREAM









# EVEN MORE ABOUT THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM!



Now that you have a general understanding of the endocrine system, I'll talk more about the main endocrine glands, one at a time. At the end of the chapter, you'll find a handy summary with the names and actions of the hormones secreted by each endocrine gland.

## THE HYPOTHALAMUS AND PITUITARY GLAND



Let's start with the hypothalamus and pituitary gland. It's helpful to think of these as the headquarters or control center of the endocrine system. Many of the hormones released by the hypothalamus and pituitary gland act as signals to other endocrine glands, telling them to secrete their own hormones. The *hypothalamus*, which is located above the pituitary gland, interacts with both the nervous system and the endocrine system (Figure 10-1).

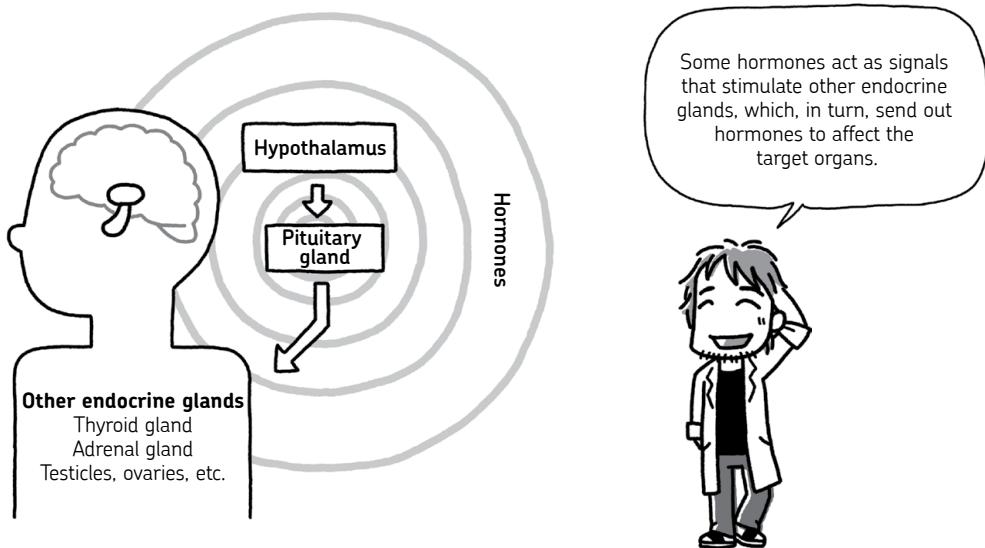


Figure 10-1: Hypothalamus and pituitary gland

The *pituitary gland* consists mainly of an anterior lobe and a posterior lobe. The anterior lobe produces and releases six hormones that stimulate other endocrine glands. These hormones, whose release is regulated by the hypothalamus, are a control mechanism for the endocrine system as a whole.

The posterior lobe of the pituitary gland secretes two types of hormones. However, the posterior pituitary does not produce these hormones. Instead, they are created by specialized neurons that stretch down from the hypothalamus, transporting molecules down their axons to the posterior pituitary, where they are released into the blood. In other words, the posterior pituitary is simply a release outlet (see Figure 10-2).

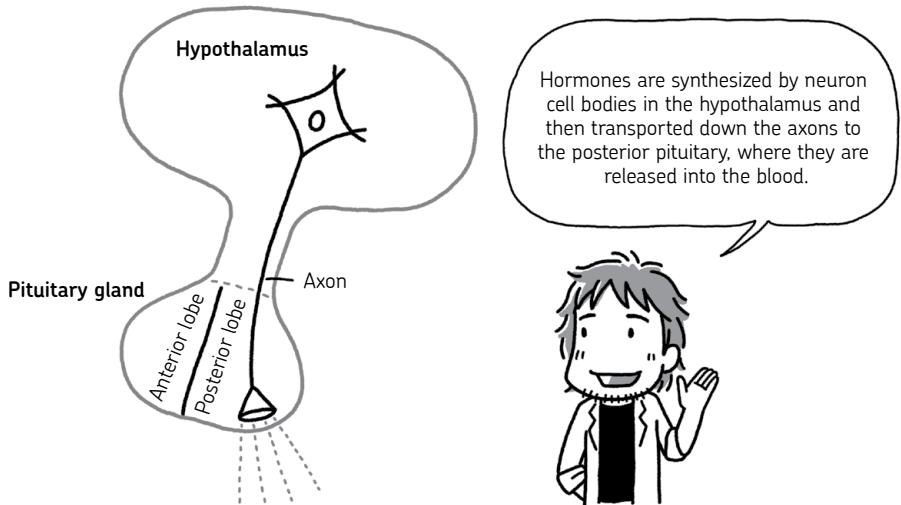


Figure 10-2: The hypothalamus sends hormones to the posterior pituitary.

### Growth Hormone Disorders

One of the hormones produced by the pituitary gland is *growth hormone*. If too much growth hormone is produced during childhood, long bones such as those in the legs will continue to grow, causing a person to become extraordinarily tall. This condition is called *gigantism*. If growth hormone is produced excessively in an adult (due to a pituitary tumor, for example), then a person's hands, feet, and jaw become enlarged. This condition is called *acromegaly*. It's treated primarily with synthetic forms of somatostatin, a hormone that inhibits growth hormone.

## THE THYROID AND PARATHYROID



The *thyroid gland* (or simply the *thyroid*) is located in the neck. It's regulated by the thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), which is secreted by the anterior pituitary.

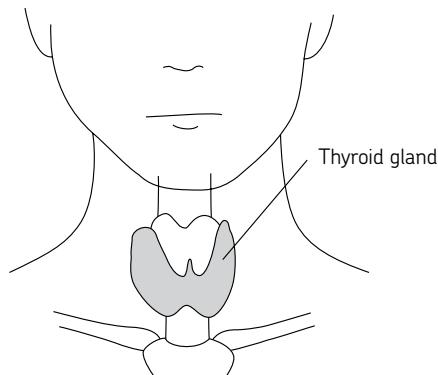


Figure 10-3: Location of the thyroid gland

The thyroid hormones include *thyroxine* (T4) and *triiodothyronine* (T3)—the numbers represent the quantity of iodine atoms per molecule in that hormone. These thyroid hormones accelerate *basal metabolism*—the amount of energy the body uses while at rest. If there's an excess of these hormones, the body will consume energy as if it were highly active even if it's at rest, potentially leading to fatigue. As shown in Figure 10-4, this may be accompanied by symptoms such as tachycardia (an abnormally fast resting heart rate), protruding eyeballs, and an enlarged thyroid. *Graves' disease* (also called *Basedow syndrome*) is a well-known type of hyperthyroidism that can produce such symptoms.

On the other hand, if the thyroid hormone level is too low, a person experiences a drop in metabolism, which in turn can cause listlessness, a decrease in body temperature, edema (swelling of body tissues), and a decrease in perspiration (see Figure 10-4).

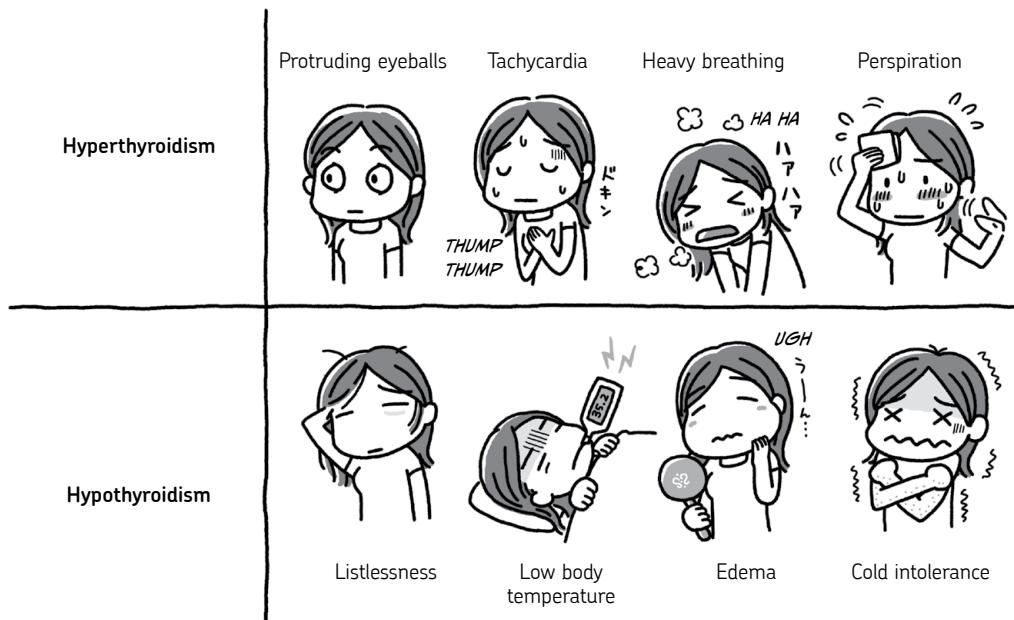


Figure 10-4: Symptoms of an over- or underactive thyroid

Four small endocrine glands, called *parathyroid glands*, are attached to the thyroid gland. The parathyroid glands are named for their proximity to the thyroid, but they are completely independent and serve a different function than the thyroid. They secrete a *parathormone (PTH)*, which increases the blood calcium level (see Figure 10-5).

### Overactive Parathyroid Glands

If the parathyroid glands are too active, too much bone will be broken down, making the bones brittle. This would also lead to *hypercalcemia*, or too much calcium in the blood, which can cause bone pain, weakness, and fatigue, and an increased risk of kidney stones.

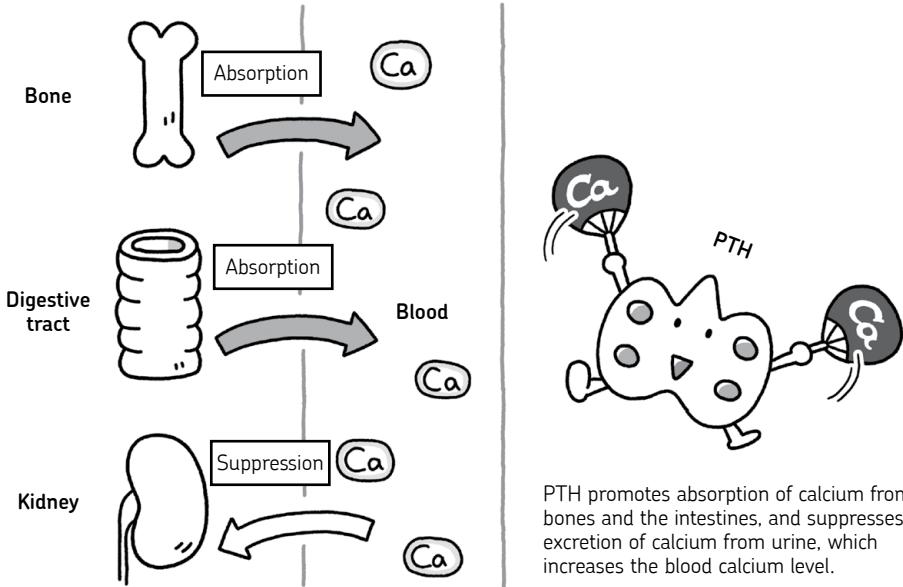


Figure 10-5: Functions of parathormone (PTH)



The blood calcium level is extremely important, isn't it?



It sure is. *Calcium* is indispensable to functions like muscle contraction, nerve transmission, and blood coagulation. If there is too little calcium in the blood, muscles can no longer move smoothly. Parathormones keep the blood calcium level from dropping too low.

## THE ADRENAL GLANDS



The adrenal glands, situated on top of the kidneys, consist of an *adrenal cortex* and an *adrenal medulla*, each of which secretes different hormones (Figure 10-6).

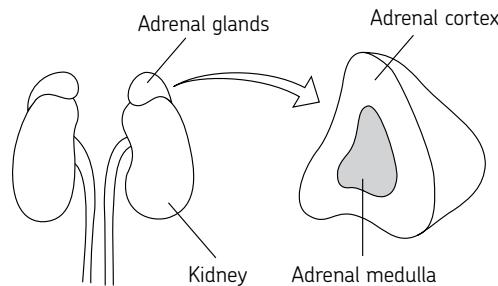


Figure 10-6: Adrenal cortex and adrenal medulla

The adrenal cortex secretes steroid hormones, meaning that they are synthesized from cholesterol. Although cholesterol has a bad reputation, it is a necessary component of the human body. The three types of hormones secreted by the adrenal cortex are glucocorticoids, mineralocorticoids, and androgens—each of these comes from a different layer of the cortex (Figure 10-7).

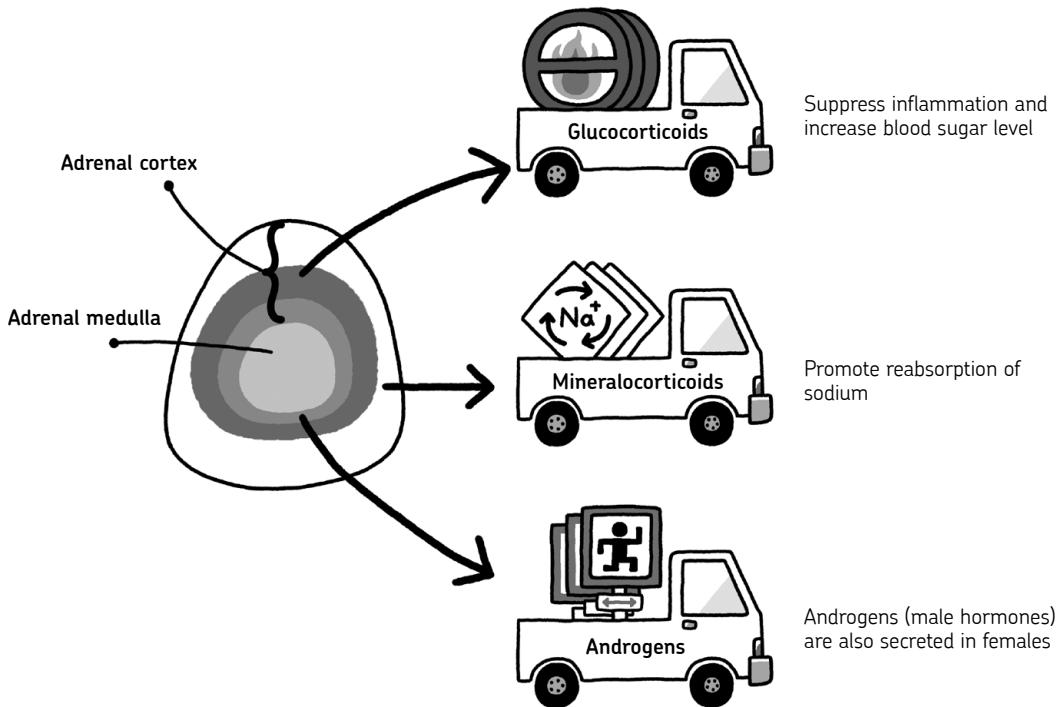


Figure 10-7: Functions of the adrenal cortex hormones

**Glucocorticoids** are involved in mobilizing glucose into the bloodstream, which is why *gluco* is part of their name. They also suppress inflammation and other immune system responses, and are widely used in pharmaceutical drugs.

**Mineralocorticoids** affect the balance of water and sodium in the body. The most important hormone in this category is aldosterone. *Aldosterone* influences the renal tubule of the kidneys to promote the reabsorption of sodium into the bloodstream. This draws water into the bloodstream as well and reduces the volume of urine, keeping more fluid in the body (see “Reabsorbing Water and Nutrients” on page 87).

**Androgens** are secreted by the adrenal cortex. Androgens are often called “male hormones,” but these hormones are produced by the adrenal cortex in both males and females.



The adrenal cortex hormones are regulated by the *adrenocorticotrophic hormone*, which is secreted by the anterior pituitary, right?

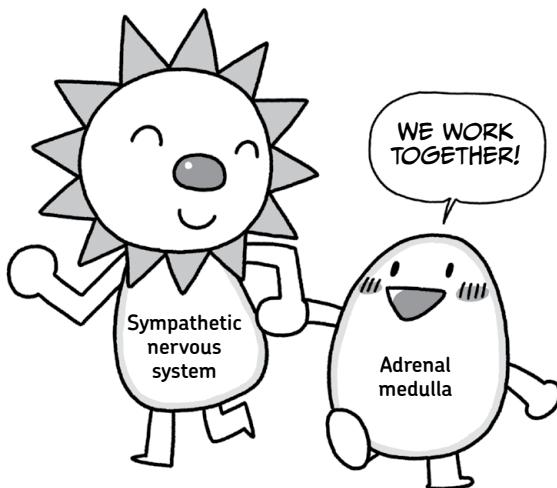


That's right. And if too many glucocorticoids are secreted by the adrenal cortex, the amount of adrenocorticotrophic hormone is reduced to balance things out. This is an example of a negative feedback mechanism (as shown in “Balancing Hormone Levels” on page 207).

### **Androstenedione: A Sex Hormone Precursor**

*Androstenedione* is an androgen secreted by the adrenal glands that is converted into testosterone and estrogen in fat and other tissues around the body. The level of estrogen produced by the adrenal glands is tiny compared to that produced by the ovaries in younger women, but this small amount is necessary in men and post-menopausal women.

Next, let's talk about the adrenal medulla, which secretes *adrenaline*. The adrenal medulla releases more adrenaline when it's triggered by the sympathetic nervous system (as part of what's often called a fight-or-flight response). In other words, adrenaline levels increase when you are excited, scared, or in the middle of strenuous activity. The adrenal medulla is almost like an extension of the sympathetic nervous system (see Figure 10-8).

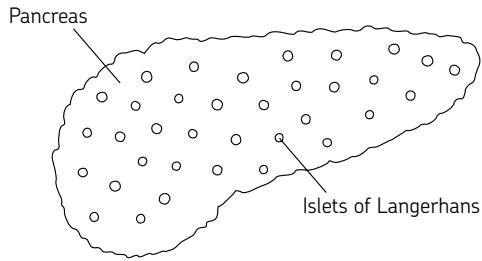


*Figure 10-8: The adrenal medulla and sympathetic nervous system work together to release high levels of adrenaline.*

## **THE PANCREAS**

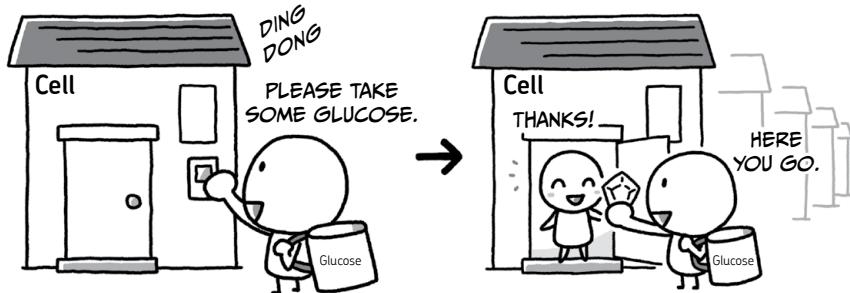


The *pancreas* functions as both an exocrine gland and an endocrine gland. An *exocrine gland* secretes fluid by way of a duct to another area either inside or outside the body. In this case, the fluid is a digestive pancreatic juice secreted into the duodenum via the pancreatic duct. But as an *endocrine gland*, the pancreas also secretes hormones directly into the bloodstream. This endocrine function is performed by clusters of cells that are scattered throughout the pancreas like islands. Together they are called the *islets of Langerhans* (Figure 10-9). The islets of Langerhans include A cells (alpha cells) that secrete glucagon and B cells (beta cells) that secrete insulin.



*Figure 10-9: The pancreas contains more than a million islets of Langerhans.*

*Insulin* regulates the body's blood sugar level. If the blood sugar level increases, the pancreas releases more insulin, which lowers the blood sugar level (Figure 10-10).



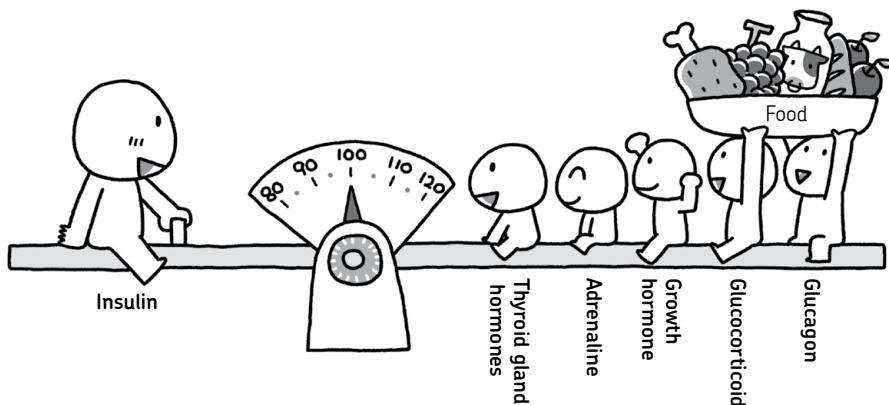
*Figure 10-10: Insulin asks muscle and fat cells to absorb excess glucose to reduce sugar levels in the blood.*



If I'm not mistaken, insulin is the only hormone that decreases the blood sugar level, right?



You are correct. Lots of hormones increase the blood sugar level (including adrenaline, growth hormones, glucocorticoid, and thyroid hormones), but insulin is the only one that lowers it (Figure 10-11). This is why insulin is so important.



*Figure 10-11: Insulin is the only hormone that lowers blood glucose levels.*

If there's not enough insulin or if cells don't properly respond to the insulin, the blood sugar level will rise. This condition is called *diabetes mellitus*. People with this condition must carefully regulate their diet and may need to take medication or administer extra insulin by injection.

### Diabetes Types 1 and 2

Diabetes mellitus is classified as either type 1 or type 2. Type 1 is caused by the loss of the ability to produce insulin. It usually first appears in childhood. While incurable, it can be managed by the administration of insulin injections several times a day. People with diabetes measure their blood sugar levels to know when to either eat something or inject insulin.

Type 2 diabetes occurs when cells stop responding well to insulin and therefore take less glucose from the bloodstream. This disease usually first appears later in life, and it's associated with lifestyle risk factors and other metabolic disorders like obesity. Treatments target different parts of the glucose-regulating system: sugar intake in the diet, the cells that have become less sensitive to insulin, the liver (which releases glucose), and the pancreas (which is still producing insulin).

*Glucagon* does the opposite of insulin: it raises the blood sugar level by breaking down glycogen in the liver, which releases glucose into the bloodstream (Figure 10-12).

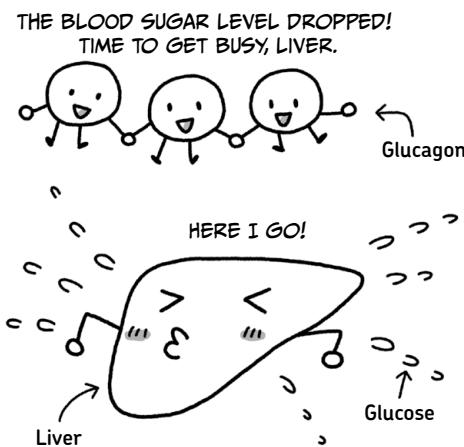


Figure 10-12: When blood sugar levels drop, glycogen is broken down in the liver to produce glucose and release it into the blood.

## SEX HORMONES



Finally, we have the sex hormones, which are responsible for the development of primary and secondary sex characteristics. *Primary sex characteristics* are those that are already formed and recognizable at birth, such as genitals. *Secondary sex characteristics*, on the other hand, appear later in life, mostly starting with puberty. Male secondary sex

characteristics include a deepened voice and accelerated growth of body and facial hair. In females, hormones trigger the development of breasts and menstruation.

Male hormones (also called *androgens*) are mainly secreted by the testicles, but smaller amounts are also secreted by the adrenal cortex. Female hormones include *estrogen* and *progesterone*. Both are secreted by the ovaries and are regulated by *gonadotropins* from the pituitary gland.



Periods are caused by estrogen and progesterone, right?



Yes, the menstrual cycle occurs as a result of female hormones, whose main function is to assist with conception and childbirth. The ovaries and uterus prepare themselves for the possibility of a pregnancy, starting over every cycle if an egg is not fertilized.

Let's talk about estrogen and progesterone in a little more detail. As shown in Figure 10-13, estrogen secreted by the ovary causes an ovum (egg) in the ovary to mature until it's ready to be released on its journey toward the uterus, otherwise known as *ovulation*. At the same time, estrogen causes the endometrium, the lining of the uterus, to thicken in preparation for a fertilized egg. In other words, estrogen works to enable conception.

After ovulation occurs, the ovarian follicle becomes the corpus luteum, which secretes progesterone to enrich the endometrium (Figure 10-13). This makes it easier for a fertilized egg to implant itself. If the egg isn't fertilized, the endometrium is no longer needed, and is broken down during menstruation.

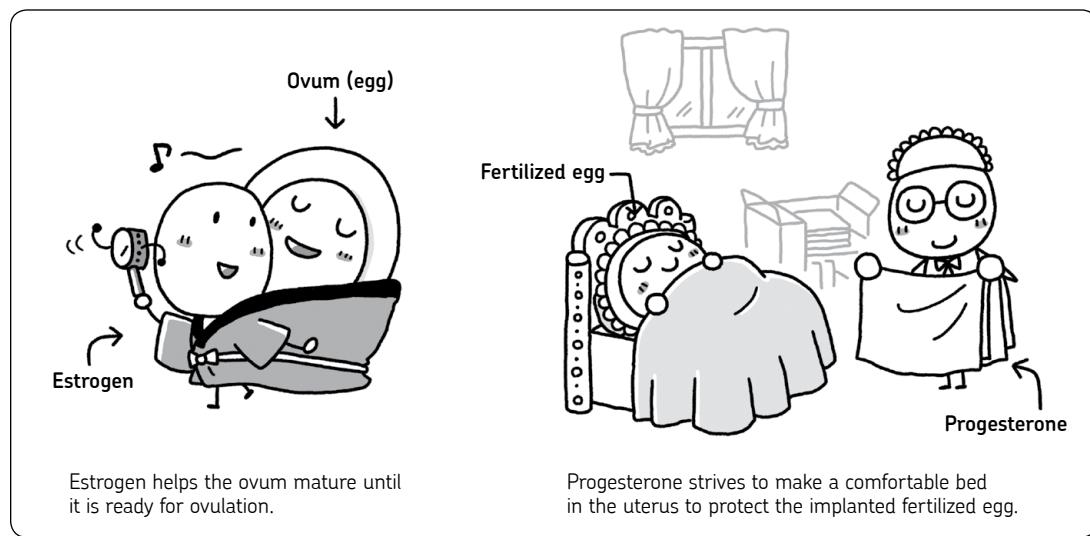


Figure 10-13: Estrogen and progesterone perform different functions.

We've gone over many different hormones. The diagram shown on page 221 provides a summary of the primary effects of the major hormones. Note that many have abbreviations; hormones are often referred to by their abbreviations in a clinical setting.

# Main Endocrine Organs and Hormones

## Anterior Pituitary Hormones

Hormone	Main effects
Growth hormone (GH)	Promotes bone growth
Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH)	Causes secretion of thyroid hormones
Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH)	Causes secretion of adrenal cortex hormones
Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)	Promotes development of ovarian follicles
Luteinizing hormone (LH)	Causes the formation of the corpus luteum
Prolactin	Increases the production of milk

## Posterior Pituitary Hormones

Hormone	Main effects
Vasopressin (anti-diuretic hormone)	Promotes water re-absorption by the renal tubule of the kidneys
Oxytocin	Causes contraction of the uterus and lactation

## Adrenal Cortex

Hormone	Main effects
Glucocorticoids	Inhibits inflammation and increases the blood sugar level
Mineralocorticoids	Promotes sodium (Na) reabsorption in the kidneys

## Adrenal Medulla

Hormone	Main effects
Adrenaline	Increases blood pressure and stimulates the heart

## Thyroid Gland

Hormone	Main effects
Triiodothyronine (T3)	Increases metabolism
Thyroxine (T4)	

## Parathyroid Gland

Hormone	Main effects
Parathormone (PTH)	Increases the blood calcium level

## Pancreas

Hormone	Main effects
Insulin	Decreases the blood sugar level
Glucagon	Increases the blood sugar level

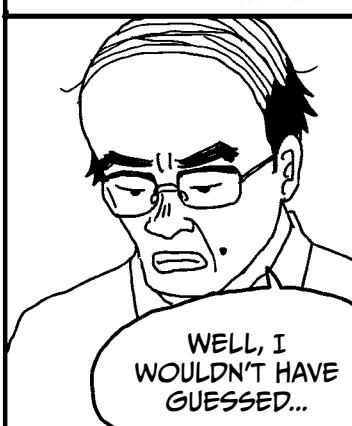
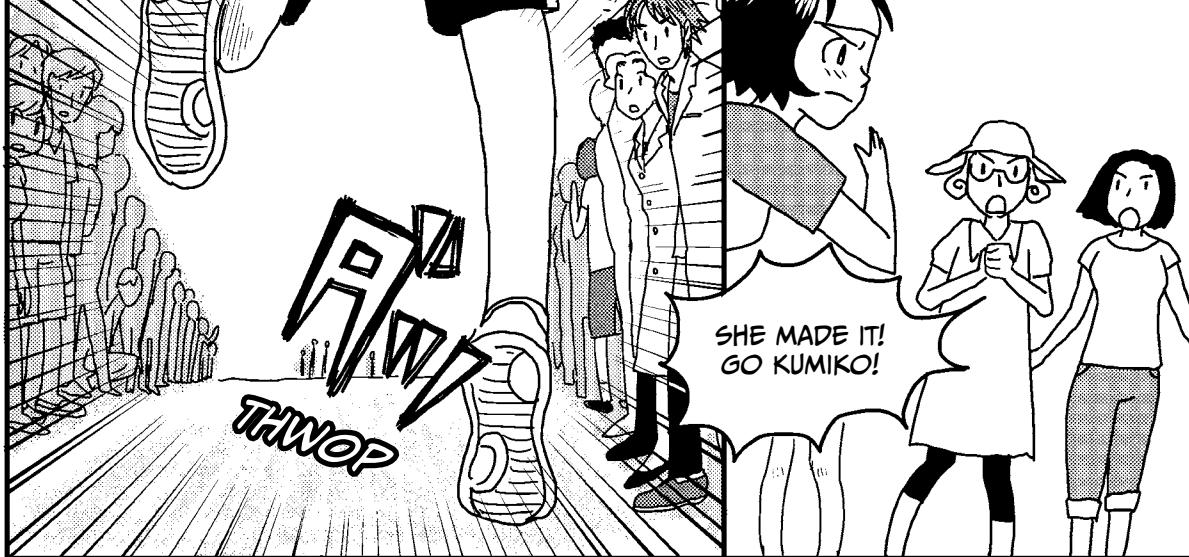
## Ovaries

Hormone	Main effects
Estrogen	Enables pregnancy to occur
Progesterone	Maintains pregnancy

## Testicles

Hormone	Main effects
Androgens	Controls male characteristics





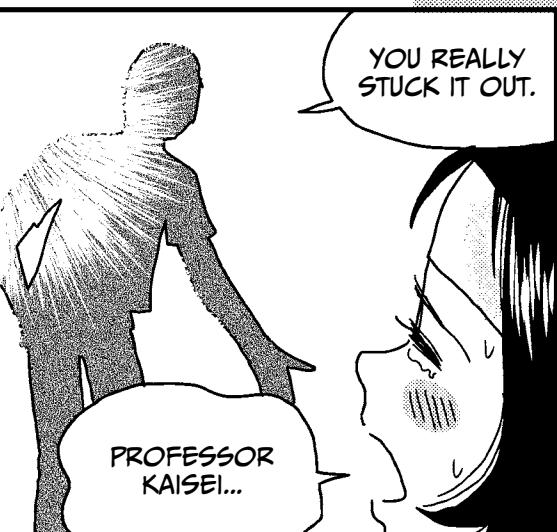
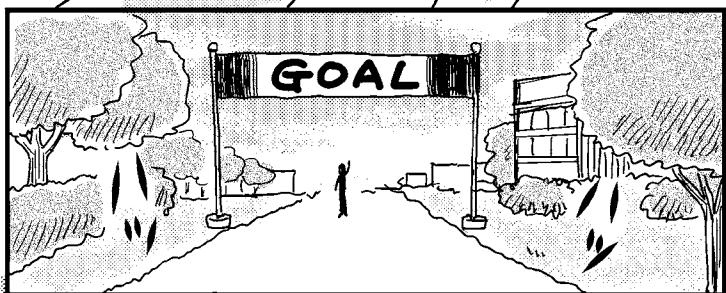
I TRAINED HARD,  
AND I STUDIED EVEN  
HARDER.

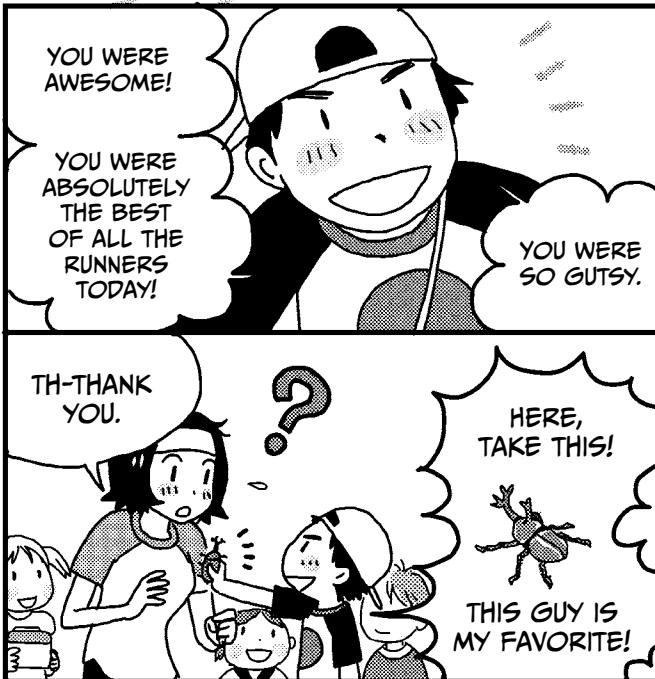
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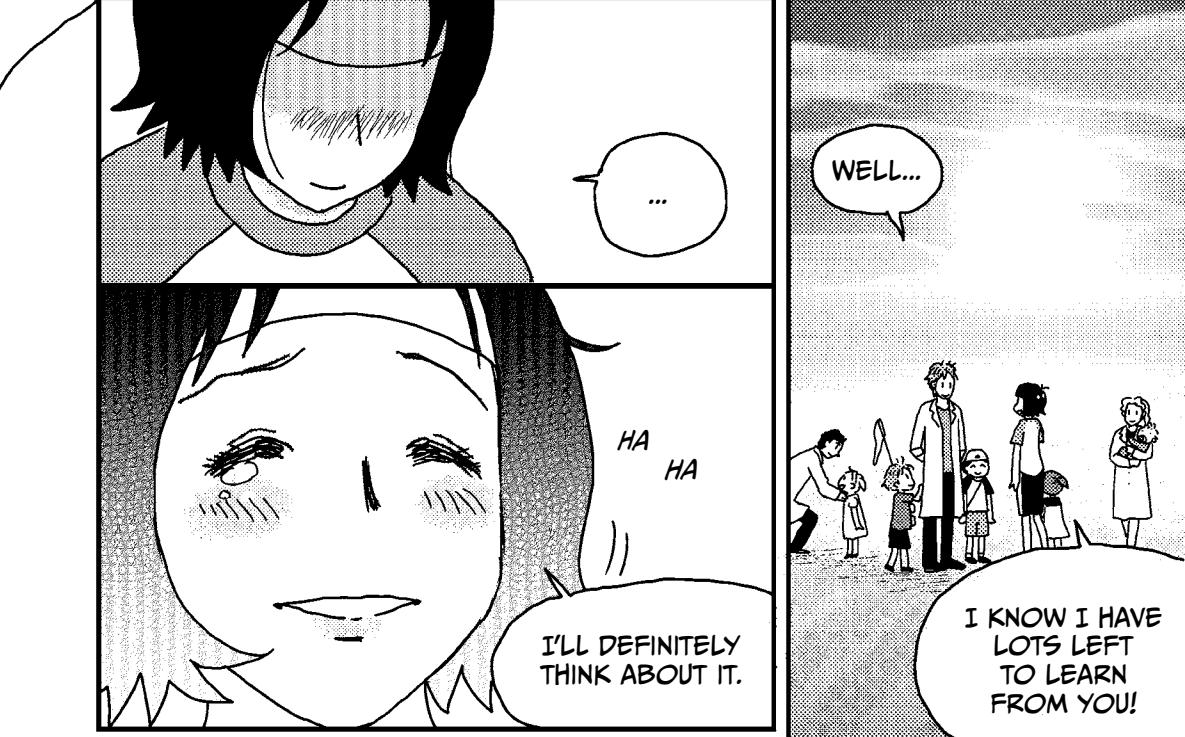
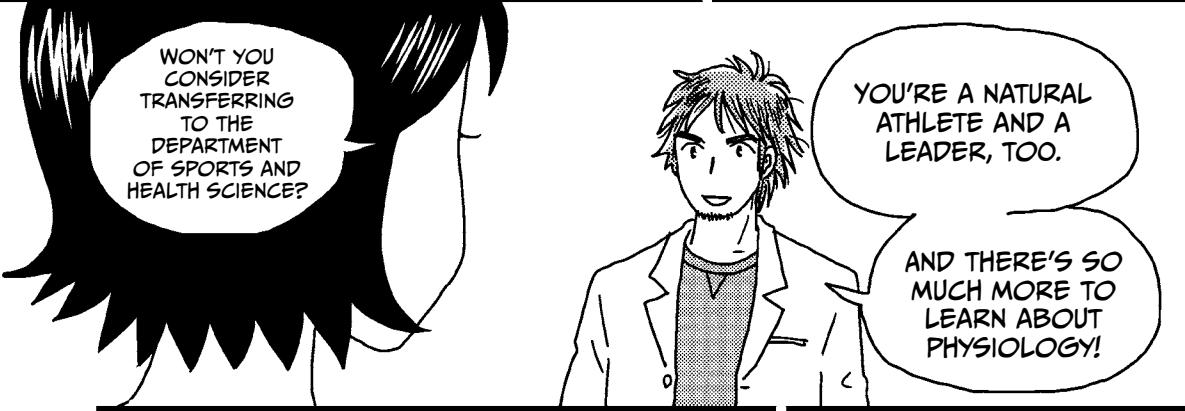
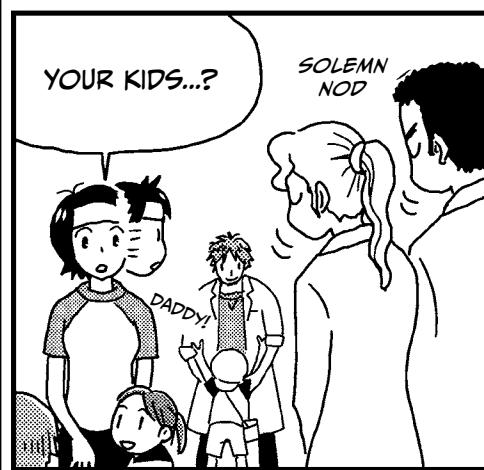
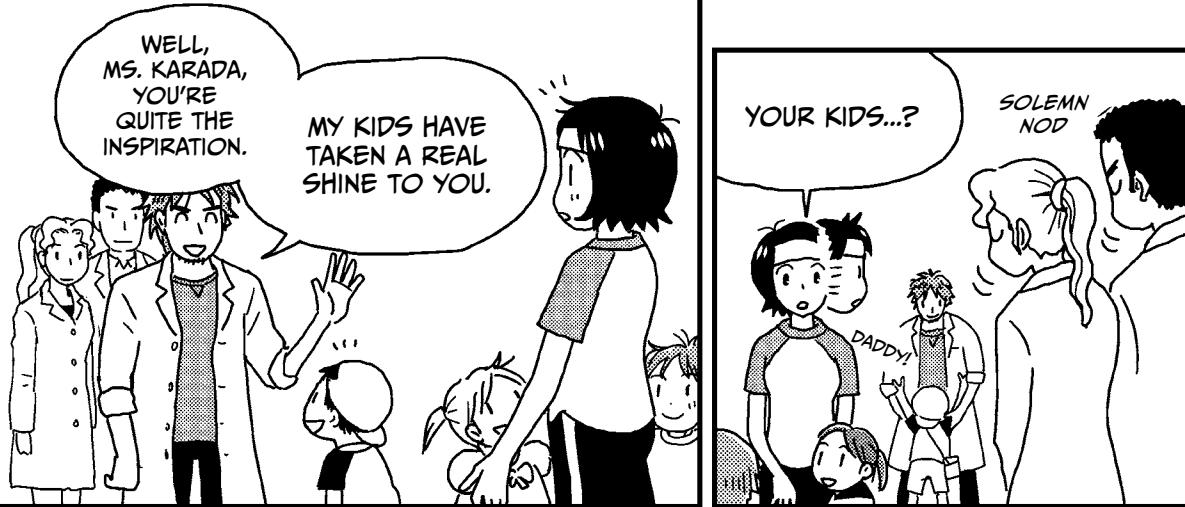
!!

SUU-HAH

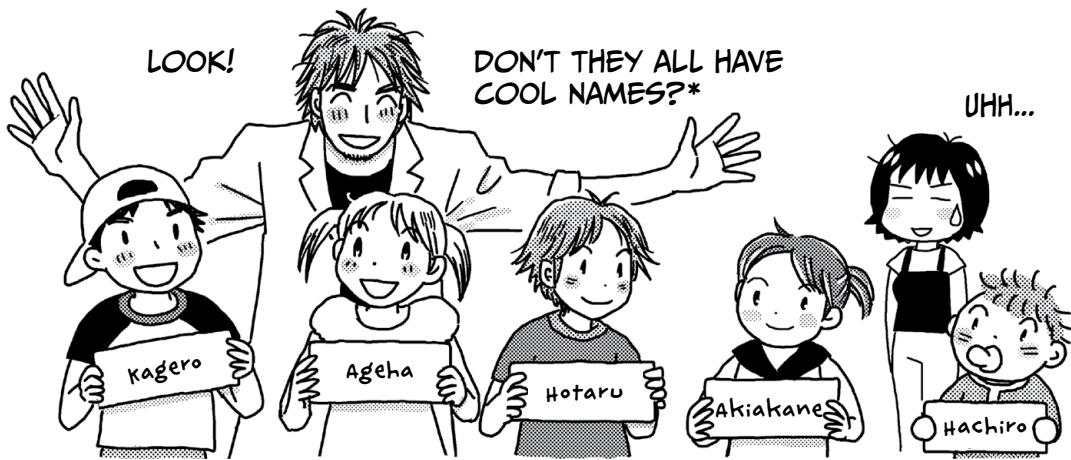
THERE'S NO WAY  
I'M GOING TO  
GIVE UP.











\* FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KAGERO = MAYFLY; AGEHA (CHOU) = SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY;  
HOTARU = FIREFLY; AKIAKANE = RED DRAGONFLY; HACHI = BEE

# AFTERWORD: CREATING THIS BOOK

What's the best way to learn about physiology? That's what we asked ourselves when writing this book, and I hope that Osamu and Kumiko have shown that the best way to learn physiology is not through rote memorization alone.

Kumiko soon finds that physiology is so much more interesting when you take a personal interest and identify with the processes you're learning about. Also, while physiology certainly requires some memorization, it's important to have a wider understanding of how the different parts of our bodies work as a whole. Each organ has its own functions, but the organs also act in conjunction with each other. Similarly, blood, oxygen, nerves, hormones, and lymph fluid work *together* to carry out various functions in a huge network. Reading this book will help you understand these relationships, and so better understand the human body.

We were aware from the start that covering such an extensive academic subject in a single book would be a formidable endeavor. For that reason, we used memorable illustrations and scenes, instead of difficult diagrams and anatomical charts, to help readers see physiology as an interesting field and to win over those who previously disliked the subject.

This manga shouldn't be the only text you work from when studying for your physiology exam, but we'd be extremely pleased if it were to give you an interest and basic education in physiology and encourage you to keep studying.

Last but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Professor Etsuro Tanaka of Tokyo University of Agriculture, who provided editorial supervision in all details of this book; Ms. Yasuko Suzuki, a medical writer who collaborated; and everyone in the Development Department at Ohmsha, Ltd.

BECOM CO., LTD.  
OCTOBER 2011



# INDEX

## A

abdominal breathing, 40, 42  
acetylcholine, 138  
acidosis, 50–51, 98  
acromegaly, 213  
ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone), 216, 221  
adenosine triphosphate. See ATP  
ADH (antidiuretic hormone), 92–93, 221  
adrenal cortex, 215–216, 221  
adrenal glands, 204, 215–217  
adrenaline, 139, 208, 217, 221  
adrenal medulla, 215–216, 221  
adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), 216, 221  
afferent conduction pathways, 136  
albumin, 109  
aldosterone, 92, 93, 96, 216  
alimentary canal (digestive tract), 56–58  
alkalosis, 50–51,  
allergies, 117  
alloosomes (sex chromosomes), 196  
amino acids, 70–71, 89  
amylase, 76  
anabolism, 71  
anaerobic energy, 172  
anal sphincter, 64  
androgens, 216, 217, 220, 221  
androstanedione, 217  
anemia, 113  
angiotensin, 96  
anterior pituitary hormones, 221  
anterior (ventral) root, spinal nerves, 135  
antidiuretic hormone (ADH), 92–93, 221  
antigens, 114  
anuria, 97  
anus, 57, 64  
aorta, 15, 19

aortic valve, 15  
aplastic anemia, 113  
archicortex, 131, 132  
arrhythmias, 24  
arterial blood, 27, 112  
arteries  
    body temperature and, 180  
    coronary, 15, 25–26  
    defined, 28  
    partial pressure of oxygen, 49  
    pulmonary, 19  
asexual reproduction, 198  
aspirating food, 58  
astigmatism, 158  
atmosphere, 48  
atopic dermatitis (eczema), 117  
ATP (adenosine triphosphate)  
    brown fat and, 178  
    citric acid cycle and, 74–75  
    decomposition, 74  
    muscle fibers and, 170  
atrioventricular node, 16–17, 19, 22  
auditory cortex, 132  
auditory ossicles, 159–160  
autonomic nerves, 123–124  
autonomic nervous system  
    circulatory system and, 24–25  
    compared to endocrine system, 205–206  
    enteric nervous system, 141  
    parasympathetic nervous system, 138–141  
    sympathetic nervous system, 138–141  
autosomes, 196  
axillary artery, 28, 180  
axons, 122

**B**

B cells, 115, 116  
balance, 161–162  
ball-and-socket joints, 175  
basal metabolism, 214  
Basedow syndrome (Graves' disease), 214  
basophils, 115  
bile, 76, 79, 80  
bilirubin, 79, 80, 114  
bladder, 93–95  
blind spots, 159  
blood  
    arterial, 27, 112  
    blood types, 114  
    clots, 117  
    components of, 111, 112  
    as extracellular fluid, 104  
    interstitial fluid and, 104–105  
    plasma, 111, 118  
    platelets, 117–118  
    pulmonary circulation, 13–15, 26–28  
    red blood cells, 112–114  
    systemic circulation, 13–15, 26–28  
    venous, 27, 112  
    white blood cells, 115–116  
blood pressure  
    defined, 29  
    diastolic pressure, 30  
    factors that determine, 29  
    kidneys and, 96  
    Korotkoff sounds, 30  
    measuring, 30–31  
    systolic pressure, 30  
    units of measurement, 31  
body fluids, 99–118  
    average volume of liquid cycling through body per day, 110  
    blood, 104, 111–118  
    dehydration, 111  
    extracellular fluid, 102, 104–105  
    hydration, 110  
    interstitial fluid, 102, 103–105  
    intracellular fluid, 102, 104

- body fluids, *continued*  
intravascular fluid, 102  
osmotic pressure, 106–109  
water, 102–105, 110–111
- body temperature  
arteries and, 180  
evaporative cooling, 180  
perspiration, 179–180  
regulating, 178  
shivering, 179  
skeletal muscles and, 178
- bone conduction, hearing, 161
- bone metabolism  
estrogen, 183  
ossification, 182  
osteoblasts, 182  
osteoclasts, 182–183  
osteoporosis, 183  
resorption, 182
- bones  
bone marrow, 181  
calcium, 183  
collagen, 182  
cortical bone, 181  
medullary cavity, 181  
role of, 180  
trabecular (cancellous) bone, 181
- Bowman's capsule, 85–86
- brachial artery, 28
- bradycardia, 24
- brain. *See also* nervous system  
autonomic nervous system, 138–141  
conduction pathways, 136  
injuries to, 133–134  
parts of, 130  
somatic nervous system, 137–138  
spinal cord and, 134–137  
structure of, 131–133
- brain death, 134
- brain freeze, 151–152
- brainstem, 43, 45, 130
- breathing  
abdominal, 40, 42  
thoracic, 40–41
- Broca's area, 132, 133
- brown fat, 178
- Bundle of His, 17, 19, 22
- C**
- calcitriol, 96
- calcium  
in bones, 183  
hypercalcemia, 214  
metabolism of, 97  
parathormones and, 215
- cancellous (trabecular) bone, 181
- carbohydrates, 66–67
- carbon dioxide, 37, 43–45, 48–49
- cardiac muscle (myocardium), 15–18, 22, 169
- carotid artery, 28, 180
- cartilage, 174
- catabolism, 71
- cecum, 57
- cell body, 122
- cell division  
chromosomes, 196  
meiosis, 198  
mitosis, 197
- cell membrane, 187
- cells, 105, 185–190. *See also* DNA  
cell division, 196–198  
cell membrane, 187  
chromosomes, 196  
connective tissue, 190  
cytoplasm, 187  
defined, 187  
epithelial tissue, 190  
Golgi apparatus, 187  
intracellular fluid, 102, 104  
meiosis, 198  
mitochondria, 187–188  
mitosis, 197  
muscle tissue, 190  
nervous tissue, 190  
nucleus, 187–188  
organelles, 187  
osmotic pressure, 106–109  
ribosomes, 187–188  
sexual reproduction, 198–201  
tissue, 190
- central nervous system, 130
- central sulcus, 132
- cerebellum, 130, 133
- cerebral cortex (gray matter), 131, 133
- cerebral limbic system, 130, 163
- cerebrospinal fluid, 130
- cerebrum, 130  
nervous system and, 125–128  
prenatal and postnatal, 135
- chest leads, electrocardiogram, 23
- chewing (mastication), 57, 72
- cholesterol, 68
- chromosomes, 196
- chyme, 61, 73
- cilia, 200
- circulatory system  
affect of nervous system on, 24–25  
blood pressure, 29–31  
coronary arteries, 25–26  
electrocardiograms, 23–24  
heart movements and waveforms, 18–20  
impulse conduction system of heart, 12–17, 22–23  
lymphatic system, 31–32  
pulmonary circulation, 26–28  
systemic circulation, 26–28
- citric acid cycle (Krebs cycle), 74–76, 170
- clots, blood, 117
- coagulation, 118
- cochlea, 160
- collagen, 182
- collecting tubule, 97–98
- colloid osmotic pressure (oncotic pressure), 109
- colors and light, 159
- conduction pathways, 136
- conductive hearing loss, 160–161
- cone cells, 156, 159
- connective tissue, 190
- corneas, 156
- coronary arteries, 15, 25–26
- corpus luteum, 199
- cortical bone, 181

cortical bones, 181  
cranial nerves, 137–138  
creatine, 170  
creatinine, 83  
cystitis, 95  
cytoplasm, 187

## D

deep sensations, 149  
defecation, 63–64  
deglutition (swallowing), 58, 72  
dehydration, 111  
dendrites, 138–141  
deoxyribonucleic acid. See DNA  
depth perception, 156–157  
detoxification, 78, 79  
diabetes mellitus, 219  
dialysis, kidney, 98  
diaphragm, 38–40, 45  
diastolic pressure, 30  
diencephalon (interbrain), 130  
diffusion process, 47, 107  
digestive system, 55–80  
    adenosine triphosphate, 74–75  
    alimentary canal, 56–58  
    anus, 64  
    citric acid cycle, 74–76  
    deglutition, 72  
    digestive enzymes, 57–58, 76–77  
    digestive fluids, 76  
    duodenum, 61, 73  
    esophagus, 59–60  
    large intestine, 63–64, 73  
    liver and, 78–80  
    mastication, 72  
    metabolism and, 65–71  
    nutrients, 65–71  
    pancreas, 61  
    rectum, 64, 73  
    saliva, 72  
    small intestine, 62–63, 73  
    stomach, 59–60, 72  
diploid cells, 196  
disaccharides, 67  
distal convoluted tubule, 88

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), 191–195  
difference between genes and, 192  
genetic research, 194–195  
    proteins and, 191  
dorsal artery of foot, 28  
dorsal (posterior) root, spinal nerves, 135  
duodenum, 57, 61, 62, 73

## E

eardrum (tympanic membrane), 159  
ears, 159–161  
    equalizing pressure, 161  
    inner, 159  
    middle, 159  
    outer, 159  
    structure of, 160  
eczema (atopic dermatitis), 117  
edema, 98, 109, 214  
efferent conduction pathways, 136  
egg cells, 198–199  
electrocardiograms (EKGs), 18–20  
    chest leads, 23–24  
    limb leads, 23–24  
    P wave, 19  
    QRS complex, 19  
    T wave, 20  
electrolytes, 108  
electron transport chain, 75  
end arteries, 26  
endocrine system  
    adrenal cortex, 221  
    adrenal glands, 204, 215–217  
    adrenal medulla, 221  
    anterior pituitary hormones, 221  
    balancing hormone levels, 207–208  
    compared to autonomic nervous system, 205–206  
    growth hormone disorders, 213  
    hormones, 205–206  
    hypothalamus, 204, 212–213  
kidneys, 95–96  
ovaries, 204, 221  
pancreas, 204, 217–219, 221  
parathyroid glands, 214–215, 221  
pituitary gland, 204, 212–213  
posterior pituitary hormones, 221  
sex hormones, 219–220  
testicles, 204, 221  
thyroid gland, 204, 213–214, 221  
endometrium, 200, 220  
enteric nervous system, 141  
eosinophils, 115  
epiglottis, 58  
epinephrine (adrenaline), 139, 208, 217, 221  
epithelial tissue, 190  
equalizing ear pressure, 161  
erythropoietin, 96  
esophagus, 57, 59–60  
essential amino acids, 71  
essential fatty acids, 68  
estrogen, 183, 220, 221  
Eustachian tube, 161  
evaporative cooling, 180  
excretion, 83–84  
exocrine gland, 217  
extensor muscles, 176  
exterior anal sphincter, 64  
external intercostal muscles, 41, 45  
external respiration, 46–47  
external sphincter muscles, 93–94  
extracellular dehydration, 111  
extracellular fluid, 102, 104–105.  
    See also blood  
extraocular muscles, 157  
eyes, 156–159  
    astigmatism, 158  
    blind spots, 159  
    colors and light, 159  
    cone cells, 156, 159  
    cornea, 156  
    crystalline lens, 156

- eyes, *continued*  
 depth perception, 156–157  
 extraocular muscles, 157  
 hyperopia, 158  
 iris, 156  
 macula, 156, 159  
 myopia, 158  
 optic chiasm, 157, 158  
 optic nerve, 156  
 presbyopia, 158  
 pupils, 157  
 retina, 156  
 rod cells, 156, 159  
 structure of, 157  
 visual acuity, 159  
 visual cortex, 157
- F**  
 fallopian tubes, 199  
 fats  
 cholesterol, 68  
 fatty acids, 68–69  
 lipids, 68–69  
 neutral fat, 68–69  
 fatty acids, 68–69  
 femoral artery, 28, 180  
 fertilization, 198–201  
 fibrin, 117  
 fibrinogen, 117  
 fibrinolysis, 118  
 filiform papillae, tongue, 165  
 filtering blood  
 Bowman's capsule, 85–86  
 creatinine, 83  
 excretion, 83–84  
 glomerulus, 84–85  
 primary urine, 86  
 renal corpuscle, 85  
 urea, 83  
 uric acid, 83  
 urine, 83–84  
 urobilinogen, 83  
 waste products, 83  
 fimbriae, 199  
 flexor muscles, 176  
 follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), 221
- fovea centralis, macula, 156, 159  
 FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone), 221  
 functional specialization (localization of brain functions), 132
- G**  
 gametes (reproductive cells), 198  
 ganglia, 124  
 gas exchange, 37, 46–47  
 gastric juice, 76  
 genes  
 difference between DNA and, 192  
 genetic research, 194–195  
 germ (reproductive) cells, 198  
 gestation period, 201  
 GH (growth hormone), 221  
 disorders, 213  
 gigantism, 213  
 glomerular filtrate (primary urine), 86, 90–91  
 glomerulus, 84–85, 89  
 glucagon, 208, 219, 221  
 glucocorticoids, 208, 216, 221  
 glucose, 66–67  
 brain and, 134  
 from liver, 79  
 osmotic pressure, 108  
 reabsorption of, 89  
 glycerol, 69  
 glycogen, 219  
 glycolysis, 75  
 Golgi apparatus, 187  
 gonadotropins, 220  
 granulocytes, 115  
 Graves' disease (Basedow syndrome), 214  
 gray matter (cerebral cortex), 131, 133  
 growth hormone (GH), 221  
 disorders, 213
- H**  
 haploid cells, 198  
 HCl (hydrochloric acid), 60, 72
- hearing, 159–161  
 heart  
 heart failure, 98  
 impulse conduction system, 12–17, 22–23  
 infants versus adults, 24  
 movements and waveforms, 18–20  
 stroke volume, 24  
 heartbeat, 20  
 hematocrit, 111  
 heme, 114  
 hemoglobin, 80, 112–113  
 hemolytic anemia, 113  
 hemostasis, 117  
 hepatic arteries, 78  
 hinge joints, 175–176  
 homeostasis, 50, 89, 92–95  
 homeotherms, 178  
 hormones. *See also* endocrine system  
 adrenaline, 139, 208, 217, 221  
 adrenocorticotrophic hormone, 216, 221  
 aldosterone, 92, 93, 96, 216  
 androgens, 216, 217, 220, 221  
 androstenedione, 217  
 angiotensin, 96  
 anterior pituitary, 221  
 antidiuretic hormone (ADH), 92–93, 221  
 balancing, 207–208  
 erythropoietin, 96  
 estrogen, 183, 220, 221  
 follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), 221  
 glucagon, 208, 219, 221  
 glucocorticoids, 208, 216, 221  
 glycogen, 219  
 growth hormone (GH), 221  
 growth hormone disorders, 213  
 insulin, 218–219, 221  
 luteinizing hormone (LH), 221  
 mineralocorticoids, 216, 221

oxytocin, 221  
parathormone (PTH), 214, 215, 221  
posterior pituitary, 221  
progesterone, 220, 221  
prolactin, 221  
renin, 96  
sex, 219–220  
somatostatin, 213  
steroid, 216  
thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), 213, 221  
thyroxine (T4), 214, 221  
triiodothyronine (T3), 214, 221  
vasopressin, 92–93, 221  
hydration, 110  
hydrochloric acid (HCl), 60, 72  
hyperalgesia, 154  
hypercalcemia, 214  
hyperopia, 158  
hyperthyroidism, 214  
hyperventilation, 51  
hypoproteinemia, 109  
hypothalamus, 204, 212–213  
hypothyroidism, 214  
hypoventilation, 51

## I

ileum, 57, 62  
immature egg cell (ovum), 198, 220  
immune system, 114, 115, 117, 216  
implantation, 201  
impulse conduction system of heart, 12–17  
atrioventricular node, 22–23  
Bundle of His, 22  
Left bundle branch, 22  
left heart, 13–15  
myocardium, 15, 16–17, 22  
pulmonary circulation, 15  
Purkinje fibers, 22  
Right bundle branch, 22  
right heart, 13–15  
sinoatrial node, 16–17, 22–23  
systemic circulation, 15

inclination of the head motion, 161, 162  
incus, 159  
infants  
    heart rate, 24  
    risk of dehydration, 111  
injuries, brain, 133–134  
inner ear, 159, 161–162  
insulin, 218–219, 221  
interbrain (diencephalon), 130  
intercostal muscles, 41, 45  
interior anal sphincter, 64  
internal intercostal muscles, 41, 45  
internal respiration, 46–47  
internal sphincter muscles, 94  
interphase, cells, 198  
interstitial (tissue) fluid, 102–105  
intervertebral disks, 174  
intestines  
    large, 57, 63–64, 73  
    small, 57, 62–63, 73  
intracellular dehydration, 111  
intracellular fluid, 102, 104  
intravascular fluid, 102  
involuntary (smooth) muscles, 169  
iris, 156  
iron-deficiency anemia, 113  
islets of Langerhans, 217, 218

## J

jejunum, 57, 62  
joint capsules, 174  
joints, 173–177  
    ball-and-socket, 175  
    cartilage, 174  
    defined, 174  
    extensor muscles and, 176  
    flexor muscles and, 176  
    hinge, 175–176  
    intervertebral disks, 174  
    joint capsules, 174  
    ligaments and, 174  
    mutually antagonistic muscles and, 176  
    range of motion, 175  
    synovial fluid, 174

## K

kidneys and renal system, 81–98  
    Bowman's capsule, 85–86  
    creatinine, 83  
    dialysis, 98  
    distal convoluted tubule, 88  
    excretion, 83–84  
    filtering blood, 83–86  
    glomerulus, 84–85, 89  
    homeostasis, 89, 92–95  
    loop of Henle, 88  
    monitoring blood, 95–96  
    nephron, 88  
    primary urine, 86, 90–91  
    proximal convoluted tubule, 88  
    reabsorption, 87–89  
    renal corpuscle, 85  
    renal insufficiency, 97–98  
    renal tubule, 87–89  
    urea, 83  
    uric acid, 83  
    urination, 93–95  
    urine, 83–84, 90–95  
    urobilinogen, 83  
    vitamin D activation, 96–97  
    waste products, 83

kinesthesia, 149

Korotkoff sounds, 30

Krebs, Hans Adolf, 76

Krebs cycle (citric acid cycle), 74–76, 170

## L

lactose, 66–67  
large intestine, 57, 63–64, 73  
lead electrocardiograms, 23  
left atrium, 13–15, 19  
left bundle branch, 17, 22  
left coronary artery, 25  
left heart, 13–15  
left internal jugular vein, 31  
left subclavian vein, 31  
left venous angles, lymphatic system, 31–32  
left ventricle, 13–15  
LH (luteinizing hormone), 221  
ligaments, 174

limbic system, 130, 163  
limb leads, electrocardiogram, 23  
lipase, 76  
lipids, 68–69  
liver  
  detoxification, 78  
  digestive system and, 78–80  
  metabolism, 79  
  processing of red blood cells, 114  
localization of brain  
  functions (functional specialization), 132  
loop of Henle, 88  
lungs  
  blood circulation, 27  
  pulmonary circulation, 13–15, 26–28  
  pulmonary function testing, 52–53  
  ventilation, 37–41  
luteinizing hormone (LH), 221  
lymph, 31  
lymphatic system, 31–32  
lymphatic vessels, 31  
lymph fluid, 160  
lymphocytes, 115  
lymphoma, 32

**M**

macrophages, 115, 116  
macula, 156, 159  
malleus, 159  
maltose, 66–67  
marrow, bone, 181  
mastication (chewing), 57, 72  
median cubital vein, 28  
medulla oblongata, 130  
medullary cavity, 181  
megakaryocytes, 117  
meiosis, 198  
meninges, 130  
menopause, 183, 217  
mesencephalon (midbrain), 130  
mesenteric veins, 78  
metabolism  
  adenosine triphosphate, 74–76  
  bone, 182–183

liver and, 78–80  
respiratory system and, 36  
thyroid gland and, 214  
microtubules, 197  
midbrain (mesencephalon), 130  
middle ear, 159  
millimeters of mercury (mm Hg)  
  blood pressure, 31  
  partial pressures of gases, 48  
mineralocorticoids, 216, 221  
minerals, 89  
mitochondria, 187–188  
mitosis, 197  
mitral valve, 15  
mm Hg (millimeters of mercury)  
  blood pressure, 31  
  partial pressures of gases, 48  
monitoring blood, 95–96  
monocytes, 115, 116  
monosaccharides, 67  
motor cortex, 132–133  
motor nerves, 123–124  
movements and waveforms, heart  
  electrocardiograms, 18–20  
  P wave, 19  
  QRS complex, 19  
  T wave, 20  
mucus barrier, 60  
muscle fibers, 168–172  
  adenosine triphosphate, 170  
  anaerobic energy, 172  
  cardiac muscles, 15–18, 22, 169  
  citric acid cycle, 170  
  myoglobin, 172–173  
  red, 171–172  
  skeletal muscles, 169  
  smooth muscles, 169  
  striation, 169  
  white, 171–172  
muscle tissue, 190  
musculoskeletal system, 167–183  
  bone metabolism, 182–183  
  bones, 180–183  
  joints, 173–177  
  muscle fibers, 168–172  
  regulating body temperature, 178–180

mutually antagonistic muscles, 176  
myocardium (cardiac muscle), 15–18, 22, 169  
myoglobin, 172–173  
myopia, 158

**N**

natural killer (NK) cells, 115  
neocortex, 131, 132  
nephrons, 88  
nerve plexus, 138  
nervous system, 119, 120. See also sensory nervous system  
  affect on circulatory system, 24–25  
  autonomic, 138–141  
  autonomic nerves, 123–124  
  cerebrum, 125–128  
  ganglia, 124  
  motor nerves, 123–124  
  neurons, 121, 122, 123  
  peripheral, 123–128  
  sensory nerves, 123–124  
  somatic, 137–138  
  spinal reflex, 125  
nervous tissue, 190  
neurons, 121, 122, 123  
neurotransmitters, 122, 141  
neutral fat, 68–69  
neutrophils, 115, 116  
NK (natural killer) cells, 115  
norepinephrine, 139  
nose, 162–164  
nucleus, 187–188  
nutrients, 65–71  
  carbohydrates, 65–67  
  fats, 65, 68–69  
  proteins, 65, 70–71

**O**

odorants, 163  
olfactory epithelium, 162, 163  
oliguria, 97  
oncotic pressure (colloid osmotic pressure), 109  
optic chiasm, 157, 158

optic nerve, 156  
oral cavity, 57  
organelles, 187  
osmosis, 107–108  
osmotic pressure  
    diffusion, 107  
    electrolytes, 108  
    glucose, 108  
oncotic pressure, 109  
proteins, 108, 109  
semipermeable membrane,  
    106–109  
ossicles, auditory, 159–160  
ossification, 182  
osteoblasts, 182  
osteoclasts, 182–183  
osteoporosis, 183  
outer ear, 159  
ovarian follicles, 198–199  
ovaries, 204, 221  
ovulation process, 198–199, 220  
ovum (immature egg cell),  
    198, 220  
oxidation, 74  
oxygen. *See also* respiratory  
    system  
    gas exchange, 37  
    kidneys and, 96  
oxytocin, 221

**P**

P waves, electrocardiogram, 19  
pain  
    pain receptors, 154–156  
    radiating, 151  
    referred, 151  
paleocortex, 131, 132  
pancreas, 61, 204, 217–219, 221  
pancreatic juice, 61  
papillae, tongue, 165  
parasympathetic nervous system  
    (PNS), 24–25, 138–140  
parathormone (PTH), 214,  
    215, 221  
parathyroid glands, 214–215, 221  
partial pressures of gases, 43–45,  
    48–49

pepsin, 60, 70  
peptides, 70–71  
peripheral nervous system,  
    123–128  
peripheral venous blood, 112  
peristalsis, 59, 62  
perspiration, 179–180  
pH, 50  
phagocytosis, 115  
pituitary gland, 204, 212–213  
plasma, 111, 118  
platelets, 117–118  
PNS (parasympathetic nervous  
    system), 24–25, 138–140  
polysaccharides, 67  
pons, 130  
popliteal artery, 28  
portal vein, 78  
posterior (dorsal) root, spinal  
    nerves, 135  
posterior pituitary hormones, 221  
potassium  
    intracellular fluid, 105  
    reabsorption of, 89  
    renal insufficiency and, 98  
pregnancy, 196, 199, 200–201,  
    220. *See also* sexual  
        reproduction  
presbyopia, 158  
primary sex characteristics,  
    219–220  
primary urine (glomerular  
    filtrate), 86, 90–91  
proenzyme, 60  
proenzyme (zymogen), 60  
progenitor cells, 181  
progesterone, 220, 221  
prolactin, 221  
proprioception, 148–149  
protease, 76–77  
proteins  
    collagen, 182  
    DNA and, 191  
    as energy source, 65  
    hypoproteinemia, 109  
    metabolism and, 70–71  
    osmotic pressure, 108, 109

proximal convoluted tubule, 88  
PTH (parathormone), 214,  
    215, 221  
pulmonary alveoli, 37  
pulmonary artery, 19  
pulmonary aspiration, 58  
pulmonary circulation, 13–15,  
    26–28  
pulmonary edema, 98  
pulmonary valve, 15  
pulmonary vein, 15  
pulse, locations for taking, 28  
pupils, 157  
Purkinje fibers, 17, 19, 22

**Q**

QRS complex, 19

**R**

radial artery, 28  
radiating pain, 151  
range of motion, joints, 175  
reabsorption  
    distal convoluted tubule, 88  
    glomerulus, 89  
    homeostasis, 89  
    loop of Henle, 88  
    nephron, 88  
    proximal convoluted tubule, 88  
    renal tubule, 87–89  
rectum, 57, 64, 73  
red blood cells, 112–114  
    anemia, 113  
    antigens, 114  
    hemoglobin, 112–113  
    recycling of by liver and  
        spleen, 114  
red muscle fibers, 171–172  
referred pain, 151  
reflexes, 64  
renal corpuscle, 85  
renal insufficiency (renal failure),  
    97–98  
renal system. *See* kidneys and  
    renal system  
renal tubule, 87–89  
renin, 96

- reproductive cells, 198  
residual urine, 94  
residual volume, lungs, 53  
resorption, 182  
respiratory centers, 43  
respiratory system, 33–53  
    acidosis, 50–51  
    alkalosis, 50–51  
    controlling respiration, 42–45  
    diffusion, 47  
    external respiration, 46–47  
    gas exchange, 46–47  
    hyperventilation, 51  
    hypoventilation, 51  
    internal respiration, 46–47  
    lungs, 52–53  
    metabolism and, 36  
    partial pressures of gases, 48–49  
    pulmonary alveoli, 46  
    spirogram, 52  
    ventilation, 37–41
- retina, 156  
ribosomes, 187–188  
right atrium, 13–15, 19  
right bundle branch, 17, 22  
right coronary, 25  
right heart, 13–15  
right internal jugular vein, 31  
right subclavian vein, 31  
right venous angles, lymphatic system, 31–32  
right ventricle, 13–15  
rod cells, 156, 159  
rotational motion, 161, 162
- S**
- saliva, 57, 72, 76  
saturated fat, 69  
secondary sex characteristics, 219–220  
semipermeable membranes, 106–109  
sensorineural hearing loss, 161  
sensory adaptation, 155, 164  
sensory cortex, 132–133  
sensory nerves, 123–124
- sensory nervous system, 143–165  
    balance and inner ear, 161–162  
    deep sensations, 149  
    hearing and ear, 159–161  
    kinesthesia, 149  
    proprioception, 148–149  
    referred pain, 151  
    sensory adaptation, 155  
    sight and eye, 156–159  
    smell and nose, 162–164  
    somatic sensations, 149  
    superficial sensations, 146–148  
    taste and tongue, 164–165  
    thresholds, 151–155  
    visceral sensations, 150–151
- serotonin, 141  
sex chromosomes  
    (allosomes), 196  
sex hormones, 219–220  
sexual reproduction, 198–201  
    asexual reproduction, 198  
cell interphase, 198  
cilia, 200  
corpus luteum, 199  
egg cells, 198–199  
endometrium, 200  
fallopian tubes, 199  
fertilization, 200–201  
fimbriae, 199  
gestation period, 201  
haploid cells, 198  
implantation, 201  
ovarian follicles, 198–199  
ovulation process, 198–199  
ovum, 198, 220  
pregnancy, 196, 199, 200–201, 220  
reproductive cells, 198  
sperm cells, 198
- shivering, 179  
sight, 156–159  
sinoatrial node, 16–17, 19, 22, 25
- skeletal muscles  
    body temperature and, 178  
    defined, 169
- red muscle fibers, 171–172  
white muscle fibers, 171–172  
small intestine, 57, 62–63, 73  
smells, 162–164  
smooth (involuntary) muscles, 169  
SNS (sympathetic nervous system), 24–25, 138–140  
sodium  
    extracellular fluid, 105  
    reabsorption of, 89
- solutes, 107, 111  
somatic nervous system, 137–138  
somatic sensations  
    deep sensations, 149  
    superficial sensations, 146–148
- somatostatin, 213  
sperm cells, 196, 198  
spinal cord, 134–137  
    nerve cell paths to and from, 136  
    prenatal and postnatal, 135  
    spinal reflex shortcuts, 137
- spinal nerves, 137–138  
spinal reflex, 125  
spiograms, 52  
spleen, 114  
stapes, 159  
starches, 66–67  
steroid hormones, 216  
stomach, 57, 59–60, 72  
stool, 63–64, 73  
striation, 169  
stroke volume, heart, 24  
sucrose, 66–67  
superficial sensations, 146–148  
superficial veins, 28  
supernatant, 111  
swallowing (deglutition), 58, 72  
sympathetic nervous system (SNS), 24–25, 138–140  
synapses, 122  
synovial fluid, 174  
systemic circulation, 13–15, 26–28  
systolic pressure, 30

## T

T3 (triiodothyronine), 214, 221  
T4 (thyroxine), 214, 221  
T cells, 115, 116  
T waves, electrocardiogram, 20  
tachycardia, 24, 214  
taste  
  smells and, 164  
  taste buds, 164, 165  
TCA cycle (citric acid cycle), 74–76, 170  
temporal artery, 28  
testicles, 204, 221  
thoracic breathing, 40–41  
thoracic cavity, 38–39  
thresholds, sensations, 151–155  
threshold value, 154  
thyroid gland, 204, 213–214, 221  
thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), 213, 221  
thyroxine (T4), 214, 221  
tidal volume, respiration, 42  
tissue  
  interstitial fluid, 102–105  
  types of, 190  
tongue, 164–165  
total lung capacity, 53  
trabecular (cancellous) bone, 181  
tricuspid valve, 15  
triglycerides, 69  
triiodothyronine (T3), 214, 221  
TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone), 213, 221  
tympanic membrane (eardrum), 159  
Type 1 diabetes, 219  
Type 2 diabetes, 219

## U

ulnar artery, 28  
unsaturated fat, 69  
urea, 83  
uremia, 97  
urethra, 95  
uric acid, 83  
urinary tract, 94

urinary tract infection (UTI), 95  
urination, 93–95  
urine  
  anuria, 97  
  homeostasis and, 90–95  
  oliguria, 97  
  residual, 94  
urobilinogen, 83  
UTI (urinary tract infection), 95

## V

vagus nerve, 137  
valves, heart  
  aortic, 15  
  heartbeat, 20  
  mitral, 15  
  pulmonary, 15  
  tricuspid, 15  
vasopressin (antidiuretic hormone), 92–93, 221  
vegetative state, brain, 133–134  
veins  
  defined, 28  
  heart, 15  
  left internal jugular, 31  
  left subclavian, 31  
  median cubital, 28  
  mesenteric, 78  
  portal, 78  
  pulmonary, 15  
  right internal jugular, 31  
  right subclavian, 31  
  superficial, 28  
vena cava, 15  
venous blood, 27, 112  
ventilation  
  abdominal breathing, 40  
  carbon dioxide, 37  
  diaphragm, 38–40  
  gas exchange, 37  
  intercostal muscles, 41  
  lungs, 38–39  
  oxygen, 37  
  pulmonary alveoli, 37  
  thoracic breathing, 40–41  
  thoracic cavity, 38–39

ventral (anterior) root, spinal nerves, 135  
ventricular fibrillation, 98  
vermiform appendix, 57  
vestibular system, 161–162  
vibration, 149  
visceral sensations, 150–151  
visual acuity, 159  
visual cortex, 132, 157  
vital capacity, lungs, 53  
vitamin D, 96, 97  
vitamins, reabsorption of, 89

## W

waste products, 83. *See also* kidneys and renal system  
water  
  extracellular fluid, 102, 104–105  
  interstitial fluid, 102, 103–105  
  intracellular fluid, 102, 104  
  intravascular fluid, 102  
  reabsorption of, 89, 93  
Wernicke's area, 132, 133  
white blood cells  
  B cells, 115  
  defense forces, 116  
  granulocytes, 115  
  lymphocytes, 115  
  monocytes, 115  
  types of, 115  
white matter, 131  
white muscle fibers, 171–172

## Z

zymogen (proenzyme), 60



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