Ch 6\_L2 “The Endocrine System”

The 2 systems that regulate your body’s activities are: The nervous system and the endocrine system. Remember, the nervous system sends out impulses.

How does the endocrine system function?

The endocrine system regulates short-term and long-term activities by sending chemicals throughout the body. Long-term changes include growth and development.

The endocrine system is made of glands. A gland is an organ that produces or releases a chemical directly into the blood, which carries it throughout the body.

Ducts- tiny tubes that carry chemicals from exocrine glands to specific places in the body or to the skin’s surface.

Ex: sweat glands send sweat through ducts to release from the skin.

\*What do you think the difference is between an exocrine gland and an endocrine gland?

(exocrine glands release their chemicals into ducts that may exit the body, but endocrine glands release chemicals into the bloodstream.)

Hormones- a chemical produced by an endocrine gland. They can turn on, turn off, speed up, or slow down the activities of organs and tissues. When you get frightened or see danger, your body releases adrenaline.

Target cells- cells that are specialized in a way that enables them to recognize a hormone’s chemical structure. Hormones travel until they find their target cell. Has to be perfect like a key in a lock.