

Act One

- The stage is in darkness except for a white spotlight shining on the center front area containing an armchair and a stuffed dog. A child (10 to 12 years) lies in the chair. She (or he, it does not matter), sits up in the chair and holds her head in both hands as if in confusion. Actors are on the raised areas surrounding the center.

"My head, my head, oh my confused head. It's stuffed with computers. My poor head. Full of zillions of computers. Where do they all fit? These computers are called neurons. What a silly name. Just to confuse me I suppose. Imagine, a thousand neurons could fit on the nail of my little finger. These neurons are all connected together with telephone lines called axons. An axon? What is the axe on? Oh, what a silly word. Some of these axons are so long they go all the way from my toes to my back, or all the way from my back to my head. And some of them are as short as an eyelash. A tiny eyelash.

"The neurons talk to each other by sending pulses of electricity along these axons to the dendrites and neurons. Sometimes these pulses fire rapidly (Makes sound in throat like a gun firing to indicate the pulses of electricity.), or slowly (makes sound slowly). The firing rate is the code for the messages. And lots of the neurons are firing together all the time (lots of firing sounds are heard from the actor and from voices [in darkness] surrounding the child). What's happening? Oh my poor brain! [She cups her hand over her mouth, but the sounds continue.] It's so confusing. What's going on out there? Is that sound in my head? Are my computers acting up again?

- Crescendo of firings, then fade away.

"Where are all these messages going in my brain? Do they go to all places at once? Or do they only go to some special places?"

- Above the stage, a diagram [Diagram 1] is shown of the brain labelled with the special places.

- Crescendo of firings, then fade away.

"Messages from my ears go to the special place for hearing which is just inside my ears." [Hearing place is highlighted.]

- Crescendo of firings, then fade away.

"Messages from my nose go to the special place for smelling just above my nose." [Smelling place is highlighted.]

- Crescendo of firings, then fade away.