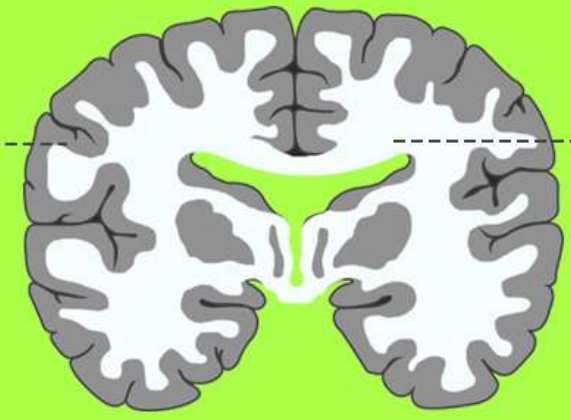
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GRAY MATTER VS WHITE MATTER



Same brain, two very different jobs — processing versus communication

Gray matter

- **MADE OF -** Neuron cell bodies, dendrites, unmyelinated axons, synapses
- **FUNCTION -** Processing and computation where information is analyzed
- **COLOUR -** Densely packed cell bodies give it a grayish tone
- **LOCATION IN BRAIN -** Outer cortex, plus deep nuclei

White matter

- **MADE OF -** Myelinated axons the brain's wiring
- **FUNCTION -** Communication relaying signals between regions
- **COLOUR -** Fatty myelin sheath gives it a white appearance
- **LOCATION IN BRAIN -** Inner region, beneath the cortex

In the spinal cord, this arrangement flips — white matter sits on the outside and grey matter (shaped like a butterfly) sits inside. A classic exam trap.

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