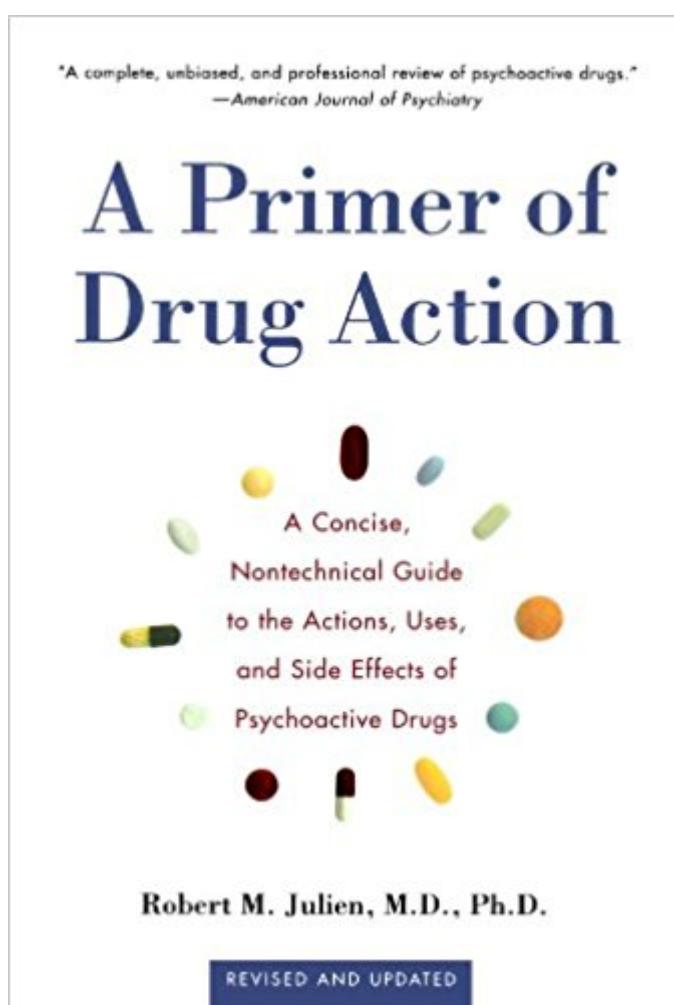


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# A Primer Of Drug Action: A Concise, Non-Technical Guide To The Actions, Uses, And Side Effects Of Psychoactive Drugs



## Synopsis

Since 1975, Robert Julien's *A Primer of Drug Action* has been the definitive guide to the effects of psychoactive drugs on the brain and on behavior. Now fully updated, this popular guide continues to lead the way through a rapidly changing field, providing readers with a clear, contemporary, and objective look at every drug and medication that either positively or adversely affects brain function. This edition includes important new information on

- Herbal medications
- Drug therapy for behavioral and anxiety disorders
- Clinical practice guidelines for treating psychological disorders
- Depression and the action of antidepressant drugs
- The use of newer anticonvulsants in the treatment of bipolar disorder, pain syndromes, and behavioral disorders
- Drug therapy for children, adolescents and the elderly
- "New generation" antipsychotic agents

Authoritative, comprehensive, and suitable for those with little background in biology, *A Primer of Drug Action* is an indispensable source of information for anyone interested in drug use, abuse, and education.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A complete, unbiased, and professional review of psychoactive drugs.”

—*American Journal of Psychiatry*

“A concise, easily readable guide to actions, uses, and side effects of psychoactive drugs . . . This book covers general principles of each class of psychoactive drugs and specific information about each drug within that class. It looks at mechanisms of action, theories about etiologies of major psychological disorders and rationale for drug treatment, and uses and limitations of psychopharmacology. It also includes basic explanations of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Drugs of compulsive use are

emphasized. Each of the 20 chapters examines current and future directions in drug research (including drugs not yet available for clinical use). An interesting new chapter on herbal medications has been added. A brief glossary is included. This is a bold attempt to capture the explosion of knowledge about psychoactive substances . . . This is a good, comprehensive review that has organized and presented a massive amount of often disparate information into a comprehensible, easy to use book.

— Nancy Schell, MD (Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center), Doody Review Services

“Since the primer's first edition 20 years ago, much has been learned about psychoactive drugs, their use in the treatment of mental disorders, and their potential for misuse. Chapters cover principles of drug action, properties of specific drugs, pharmacotherapy for various disorders, and societal issues. The primer's goal is to present information in clear language, free of jargon, for students and general readers, though scholarly syntax is the norm throughout.

— Book News

“This in-depth survey of the effects of psychoactive drugs on the brain and behavior includes an expanded discussion of drug action and new discoveries in psychopharmacology since 1975. Surprisingly simple language lend insights to details on the actions, uses and side effects of these drugs. A valuable . . . reference addition.

— Midwest Book Review

Robert M. Julien, M.D., Ph.D., is staff anesthesiologist at St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center in Portland, Oregon.

Note: this is not the 2013 edition. It's the 2001 edition. All the references are 15 or more years old.

This book was recommended to me by an herbalist/nutritionist to help me as a student of acupuncture, herbalism, and nutrition. It provided rich insight into tough clinical cases and patients I am currently treating, ranging from drug recovery, ADHD, smoking cessation and depression and anxiety. Like: The explanations of the mechanisms of drugs and psychological disorders helped me tremendously in developing appropriate herbal therapy and knowing when to refer. The chapter on caffeine and adderal were particular enlightening for me! Dislike: would like a newer edition and more biological pathway charts I would recommend to other health practitioners or neuroscience students. It's a fun read.

"A Primer of Drug Action" is quite amazing and reads very easily! What I find so fascinating is how up-to-date the info is. To give an example, in the analgesic section about NSAIDs, the author tells of

the new skin patch for diclofenac that came out this year (2008). The eleventh edition began being printed in 2008! Also I enjoy the fact that much of the information provided has references stated at the end of the sentences. The information about the drugs is very clear and not too oversimplified. I recommend this for anyone who enjoys pharmacology and especially for those who lack upper-level life science knowledge.

Really good drug book.

I bought this for an undergraduate Psychopharmacology class, and I have been told it is also used in medical schools. It definitely doesn't read like a textbook, I ended up reading more of it for fun than I read for the class. As far as the class requirements go, this didn't seem to have any major differences from the more recent edition, so I would recommend buying this edition to get a better price.

Back in the 60's when people experimented with drugs, they always had a sleeper - someone who knew what to expect and what to do if something went wrong. This is your sleeper....before you take any drug, read this concise and unbiased primer

great book for school

I got this book in preparation for the Master Addiction Exam and it helped me to get a high score in psychopharmacology. It is an easy to read book that addresses use, abuse and effects of drugs in ways someone who is not a science or medicine major can understand. Thank you to the author and to .

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