Gas exchange

A-Level Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
gas exchange /gæs eksˈtʃeɪndʒ/	**Gas exchange** happens in the leaves.
trachea /trəˈkɪə/	The **trachea** carries air down to the lungs.
bronchus /ˈbrɒŋkəs/	Each **bronchus** carries air into one lung.
bronchiole /ˈbrɒŋkɪəʊl/	A **bronchiole** is a tiny airway that leads to the air sacs.
alveoli /ˈælvɪɒli/	Gas exchange happens in the **alveoli**.
lungs /lʌŋz/	Oxygen enters the blood in the **lungs**.
capillary /kəˈpɪləri/	A **capillary** has walls only one cell thick, so things pass through easily.
cartilage /ˈkɑːtɪlɪdʒ/	Rings of **cartilage** keep the trachea open.
ciliated epithelium /ˈsɪlɪeɪtɪd ˌepɪˈθiːlɪəm/	**Ciliated epithelium** has tiny hairs that sweep mucus out of the lungs.
cilia /ˈsɪlɪə/	**Cilia** in your airways beat to move mucus up and out.
mucus /ˈmjuːkəs/	**Mucus** traps dust in your nose.
goblet cell /ˈgɒblət sel/	A **goblet cell** makes mucus.
mucous gland /ˈmjuːkəs glænd/	A **mucous gland** in the airway wall makes mucus that traps dust.

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microbe /ˈmaɪkrəʊb/	A **microbe** is a living thing too small to see without a microscope.
smooth muscle /smuːð ˈmʌsl/	**Smooth muscle** in the airway walls can make the airways narrower.
elastic fibre /ɪˈlæstɪk ˈfaɪbə/	An **elastic fibre** stretches when you breathe in and springs back when you breathe out.
squamous epithelium /ˈskwɒməs ˌepɪˈθiːlɪəm/	The air sacs are lined with thin, flat **squamous epithelium**.
plan diagram	A **plan diagram** shows the outlines of the tissues, not individual cells.
diffuse /dɪˈfjuːz/	Molecules **diffuse** from high to low concentration.
concentration gradient /ˌkɒnsənˈtreɪʃn ˈgreɪdɪənt/	Oxygen moves down a **concentration gradient**, from high to low.
oxygen /ˈɒksɪdʒn/	Your cells need **oxygen** to release energy.
carbon dioxide /ˈkɑːbən daɪˈɒksaɪd/	We breathe out **carbon dioxide**.
endothelium /ˌendəʊˈθiːlɪəm/	The **endothelium** is the thin, smooth layer of cells on the inside of every blood vessel.

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