Gas exchange

A-Level Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
gas exchange /gæs eks'tʃeɪndʒ/	**Gas exchange** happens in the leaves.
trachea /trə'kɪə/	The **trachea** carries air down to the lungs.
bronchus /'brɒŋkəs/	Each **bronchus** carries air into one lung.
bronchiole /'brɒŋkɪəʊl/	A **bronchiole** is a tiny airway that leads to the air sacs.
alveoli /'ælvɪəli/	Gas exchange happens in the **alveoli**.
lungs /lʌŋz/	Oxygen enters the blood in the **lungs**.
capillary /kə'pɪləri/	A **capillary** has walls only one cell thick, so things pass through easily.
cartilage /'kɑːtɪlɪdʒ/	Rings of **cartilage** keep the trachea open.
ciliated epithelium /'sɪlɪeɪtɪd ˌepɪ'θiːlɪəm/	**Ciliated epithelium** has tiny hairs that sweep mucus out of the lungs.
cilia /'sɪlɪə/	**Cilia** in your airways beat to move mucus up and out.
mucus /'mjuːkəs/	**Mucus** traps dust in your nose.
goblet cell /'gɒblət sel/	A **goblet cell** makes mucus.
mucous gland /'mjuːkəs glænd/	A **mucous gland** in the airway wall makes mucus that traps dust.

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microbe /'maɪkrəʊb/	A **microbe** is a living thing too small to see without a microscope.
smooth muscle /smuːð 'mʌsl/	**Smooth muscle** in the airway walls can make the airways narrower.
elastic fibre /ɪ'læstɪk 'faɪbə/	An **elastic fibre** stretches when you breathe in and springs back when you breathe out.
squamous epithelium /'skwɒməs ˌepɪ'θiːlɪəm/	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 /dɪ'fjuːz/	Molecules **diffuse** from high to low concentration.
concentration gradient /ˌkɒnsən'treɪʃn 'greɪdɪənt/	Oxygen moves down a **concentration gradient**, from high to low.
oxygen /'ɒksɪdʒn/	Your cells need **oxygen** to release energy.
carbon dioxide /'kɑːbən daɪ'ɒksaɪd/	We breathe out **carbon dioxide**.
endothelium /ˌendəʊ'θiːlɪəm/	The **endothelium** is the thin, smooth layer of cells on the inside of every blood vessel.