Infectious diseases

A-Level Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
infectious disease /ɪnˈfekʃəs dɪˈziːz/	Flu is an **infectious disease**: it can pass from person to person.
pathogen /ˈpæθədʒn/	A virus that causes flu is a **pathogen**.
transmit /trænˈsmɪt/	Mosquitoes **transmit** malaria from one person to another.
cholera /ˈkɒlərə/	**Cholera** spreads through dirty water.
bacterium /bækˈtɪərɪəm/	A **bacterium** is a single cell with no nucleus.
contaminated /kənˈtæmɪneɪtɪd/	Dirty water can be **contaminated** with germs.
faeces /ˈfiːsiːz/	**Faeces** contain undigested food.
malaria /məˈleərɪə/	**Malaria** is spread by mosquito bites.
protoctist /ˈprəʊtəʊktɪst/	Amoeba is a **protoctist**.
mosquito /məˈskiːtəʊ/	Only the female **mosquito** bites people and drinks blood.
vector /ˈvektə/	The mosquito is the **vector** of malaria: it carries the parasite between people.
tuberculosis /ˌtjuːbəkjʊˈləʊsɪs/	**Tuberculosis** is a bacterial disease that mainly damages the lungs.
droplet /ˈdrɒplɪt/	When you cough, each tiny **droplet** can carry bacteria into the air.

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virus /ˈvaɪrəs/	A **virus** copies itself into other files.
AIDS /eɪdz/	**AIDS** develops when HIV has damaged the body's defences. HIV
immune system /ɪˈmjuːn ˈsɪstəm/	HIV attacks the **immune system**, so the body cannot fight other infections. HIV
vaccine /væk'siːn/	A **vaccine** teaches the body to fight a disease before you catch it.
insecticide /ˌɪnˈsektɪsaɪd/	Farmers spray **insecticide** to kill insects that eat their crops.
antibiotic /ˌæntɪbaɪˈɒtɪk/	An **antibiotic** kills bacteria.
penicillin /ˌpenɪˈsɪlɪn/	**Penicillin** was the first antibiotic.
cell wall /sel wɔːl/	A **cell wall** gives a plant cell its shape.
peptidoglycan /ˈpeptɪdɒglɪkən/	Most bacteria have a cell wall made of **peptidoglycan**, not cellulose.
mutation /mjuːˈteɪʃn/	A **mutation** is a change in the DNA. DNA
resistance /rɪˈzɪstəns/	Bacteria that survive the antibiotic pass their **resistance** on to their offspring.