Heredity

AP Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
Meiosis /meɪˈəʊsɪs/	**Meiosis** makes sex cells with half the chromosomes.
gametes /ˈgæmiːts/	Sperm and egg cells are **gametes**.
homologous chromosomes /həˈmɒləgəs ˈkrəʊməsəʊmz/	**Homologous chromosomes** are a matching pair, one from each parent.
diploid /ˈdɪplɔɪd/	Body cells are **diploid**: they have two sets of chromosomes.
haploid /ˈhæplɔɪd/	Sperm and egg cells are **haploid**: they have one set of chromosomes.
nondisjunction /ˌnɒndɪsˈdʒʌŋkʃn/	**Nondisjunction** happens when chromosomes fail to separate.
aneuploidy /ˈeɪnəplɔɪdi/	**Aneuploidy** means having too many or too few chromosomes.
Crossing over /ˈkrɒsɪŋ ˈəʊvə/	**Crossing over** swaps pieces between chromosomes.
Independent assortment /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt əˈsɔːtmənt/	**Independent assortment** mixes chromosomes in new ways.
alleles /əˈliːlz/	A gene can have different **alleles**.
genotype /ˈdʒenətaɪp/	Bb is a **genotype**. Bb
phenotype /ˈfenətaɪp/	Eye colour is a **phenotype**.
dominant /ˈdɒmɪnənt/	The brown-eye allele is **dominant**.

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recessive /rɪ'sesɪv/	The blue-eye allele is **recessive**.
Punnett square /'pʌnɪt skweə/	Use a **Punnett square** to predict the offspring.
Homozygous /ˌhɒmə'zɪgəs/	**Homozygous** means having two of the same allele.
heterozygous /ˌhetrə'zɪgəs/	A **heterozygous** plant has two different alleles, such as Tt. Tt
Incomplete dominance /ɪŋkəm'pliːt 'dɒmɪnəns/	**Incomplete dominance** gives pink flowers from red and white parents.
Codominance /'kəʊdəmɪnəns/	**Codominance** shows both alleles, like AB blood. AB
polygenic /ˌpɒlɪ'dʒenɪk/	Height is **polygenic**: many genes control it.
sex-linked /seks lɪŋkt/	Colour blindness is **sex-linked**: its gene is on the X chromosome. X
linked	**Linked** genes are close together on one chromosome.
recombination frequency	The **recombination frequency** shows how far apart two genes are.
pedigree	A **pedigree** is a family tree drawn with squares for males and circles for females.
phenotypic plasticity	**Phenotypic plasticity** lets one genotype look different in different conditions.

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