5 · Homeostasis and response

AQA · GCSE · Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
homeostasis /ˌhəʊmiːəˈstɑːsɪs/	Sweating is part of **homeostasis**: it keeps body temperature steady.
receptors	**Receptors** in the skin detect heat and pressure.
stimuli	Light, sound and touch are **stimuli**.
coordination centres	The brain and spinal cord are **coordination centres**.
spinal cord /ˈspaɪnl kɔːd/	The **spinal cord** runs down inside your backbone.
pancreas /ˈpæŋkrɪəs/	The **pancreas** makes insulin and digestive enzymes.
effectors	Muscles and glands are **effectors**.
neurone /ˈnjuːrəʊn/	A **neurone** is a nerve cell that carries electrical signals.
electrical impulses /ɪˈlektrɪkl ˈɪmpʌlsɪz/	Neurones carry **electrical impulses**.
reflex arc /ˈriːfleks ɑːk/	A **reflex arc** goes from the receptor to the muscle without thinking.
sensory neurone /ˈsensəri ˈnjuːrəʊn/	A **sensory neurone** carries signals from the skin to the spinal cord.
relay neurone	A **relay neurone** in the spinal cord links sensory and motor neurones.
motor neurone /ˈməʊtə ˈnjuːrəʊn/	A **motor neurone** carries signals from the spinal cord to a muscle.

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synapse /ˈsɪnæps/	A **synapse** is a small gap between two nerve cells.
median /ˈmiːdiːən/	Put the values in order before you find the **median**.
cerebral cortex /ˈserɪbrəl ˈkɔːteks/	The **cerebral cortex** controls memory and language.
cerebellum /ˌserɪˈbeləm/	The **cerebellum** coordinates balance and movement.
medulla /ˈmedʌlə/	The **medulla** controls heartbeat and breathing.
retina /ˈretɪnə/	The **retina** detects light.
optic nerve /ˈɒptɪk nɜːv/	The **optic nerve** carries messages from the eye to the brain.
sclera	The tough white **sclera** protects the eye.
cornea /ˈkɔːnɪə/	The **cornea** is the clear front of the eye.
iris /ˈaɪrɪs/	The **iris** is the coloured part of the eye.
pupil /ˈpjuːpl/	The **pupil** is the black hole in the middle of the eye.
lens /lenz/	The **lens** focuses light onto the back of the eye.
accommodation /əˌkɒməˈdeɪʃn/	**Accommodation** lets the eye focus on near and far objects.
myopia /maɪˈəʊpɪə/	With **myopia**, distant objects appear blurred.
concave lens	A **concave lens** corrects short-sightedness.

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Word	Example
hyperopia /ˌhaɪpə'rəʊpɪə/	With **hyperopia**, nearby objects may be difficult to focus on.
convex lens	A **convex lens** corrects long-sightedness.
thermoregulatory centre	The **thermoregulatory centre** in the brain monitors blood temperature.
vasodilation /ˌvæsədɪ'leɪʃn/	**Vasodilation** makes your skin red when you are hot.
sweat glands /swet glændz/	**Sweat glands** release sweat onto the skin.
sweat /swet/	Evaporating **sweat** transfers energy away from the skin.
vasoconstriction /ˌvæsəkən'strɪkʃn/	**Vasoconstriction** makes your skin pale when you are cold.
endocrine system /'endəʊkraɪn 'sɪstəm/	The **endocrine system** uses hormones to send messages in the blood.
hormone /'hɔːməʊn/	Insulin is a **hormone**.
target organs /'tɑːgɪt 'ɔːgənz/	The liver is one of the **target organs** for insulin.
pituitary gland /pɪ'tjuːɪtəri glænd/	The **pituitary gland** is at the base of the brain.
thyroid	The **thyroid** releases thyroxine.
adrenal glands /ə'driːnl glændz/	The **adrenal glands** sit on top of the kidneys.
ovaries /'əʊvəriz/	The **ovaries** make eggs.
testes /'testiːz/	The **testes** make sperm.

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Word	Example
insulin /ˈɪnsjuːlɪn/	**Insulin** lowers the level of sugar in the blood.
glycogen /ˈglaɪkədʒn/	The liver stores **glycogen**.
glucagon /ˈgluːkægən/	**Glucagon** raises the level of sugar in the blood.
negative feedback /ˈnegətɪv ˈfiːdbæk/	**Negative feedback** brings body temperature back to normal.
Type 1 diabetes	People with **Type 1 diabetes** need insulin injections.
Type 2 diabetes	Diet and exercise help control **Type 2 diabetes**.
deaminated /ˈdiːmɪneɪtɪd/	Excess amino acids are **deaminated** in the liver.
liver /ˈlɪvə/	The **liver** makes bile.
ammonia /əˈməʊnɪə/	**Ammonia** has a strong smell.
urea /juːˈrɪə/	The liver makes **urea**.
filtration /fɪlˈtreɪʃn/	**Filtration** in the kidney pushes water and small molecules out of the blood.
selective reabsorption /sɪˈlektɪv riːbˈsɔːpʃn/	In **selective reabsorption**, useful things like glucose go back into the blood.
ADH /ˌeɪ diː ˈeɪtʃ/	**ADH** makes the kidneys save water.
dialysis /daɪˈæləsɪs/	**Dialysis** cleans the blood when the kidneys fail.
transplant /trænˈsplænt/	A kidney **transplant** can end the need for dialysis.

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Word	Example
oestrogen /ˈiːstrədʒn/	**Oestrogen** controls the menstrual cycle.
ovulation /ˌɒvjʊˈleɪʃn/	**Ovulation** releases an egg from the ovary.
testosterone /teˈstɒstərəʊn/	**Testosterone** causes a boy's voice to deepen.
FSH /ˌef es ˈeɪtʃ/	**FSH** makes an egg mature in the ovary.
LH	A surge of **LH** triggers ovulation.
progesterone /prəʊˈdʒestərəʊn/	**Progesterone** keeps the uterus lining thick.
condoms	**Condoms** stop sperm from reaching an egg.
diaphragms	**Diaphragms** are barriers placed over the cervix.
phototropism /ˌfəʊtəʊˈtrəʊpɪzəm/	Shoots grow towards light because of **phototropism**.
gravitropism /ˈgrævɪtrəʊpɪzəm/	Roots grow down because of **gravitropism**.
auxin /ˈɔːksɪn/	**Auxin** makes plant cells grow longer.

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