The nature and variety of living organisms

Pearson Edexcel · International GCSE · Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
nutrition /nju:ˈtrɪʃn/	Plants get their **nutrition** by photosynthesis.
respiration /ˌrespɪˈreɪʃn/	**Respiration** releases energy that cells use to stay alive.
excretion /ekˈskreʃn/	The kidneys carry out **excretion** of urea.
respond /rɪˈspɒnd/	Roots **respond** to gravity by growing downwards.
movement /ˈmu:vmənt/	Plants show **movement** when they turn towards light.
reproduce /rɪprəˈdju:s/	Animals that survive can **reproduce** and pass on their genes.
grow /grəʊ/	Young plants **grow** as their cells divide and enlarge.
photosynthesis /ˌfəʊtəʊˈsɪnθəsɪs/	Plants make sugar by **photosynthesis**.
plants /plænts/	Green **plants** use light to make their own food.
chloroplast /ˈklɔ:rəʊplæst/	A **chloroplast** carries out photosynthesis.
cellulose /ˈselju:ləʊs/	Plant cell walls are made of **cellulose**.
starch /stɑ:tʃ/	Potatoes contain a lot of **starch**.
animals /ˈænɪmlz/	**Animals** obtain food by eating other organisms or their products.
glycogen /ˈglaɪkədʒn/	The liver stores **glycogen**.

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fungi /ˈfʌŋgi/	Rose black spot is caused by **fungi**.
mycelium /maɪˈsiːlɪəm/	A **mycelium** is a network of fungal threads.
hyphae /ˈhaɪfiː/	**Hyphae** spread through the food as the fungus grows.
chitin /ˈtʃɪtɪn/	**Chitin** helps strengthen fungal cell walls.
saprotrophic nutrition /ˌsæprəˈtrəʊfɪk njuːˈtrɪʃn/	**Saprotrophic nutrition** involves digesting dead material outside the organism.
yeast /jiːst/	**Yeast** makes bread rise.
protoctists /ˈprəʊtəʊktɪsts/	Some **protoctists** have chloroplasts; others feed on organisms.
malaria /məˈleərɪə/	**Malaria** is spread by mosquito bites.
bacteria /bækˈtɪərɪə/	Chlorine kills **bacteria** in drinking water.
plasmids /ˈplæzmɪdz/	Bacteria have small rings of DNA called **plasmids**.
circular DNA /ˈsɜːkjʊlə ˌdiː en ˈeɪ/	A bacterium keeps most of its genes on one loop of **circular DNA**.
pneumonia /njuːˈməʊnɪə/	Some bacteria can cause **pneumonia** in the lungs.
viruses /ˈvaɪrəsɪz/	Flu and colds are caused by **viruses**.
pathogen /ˈpæθədʒn/	A virus that causes flu is a **pathogen**.
protein coat /ˈprəʊtiːn kəʊt/	A **protein coat** surrounds the genes of a virus.

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Word	Example
tobacco mosaic virus /təˈbækəʊ məˈseɪɪk ˈvaɪrəs/	**Tobacco mosaic virus** can cause patchy discolouring of leaves.
influenza virus /ˌɪnfluːˈenzə ˈvaɪrəs/	The **influenza virus** reproduces inside living cells.
HIV /ˌeɪtʃ aɪ ˈviː/	**HIV** infects cells involved in the immune response.

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