The nature and variety of living organisms

Pearson Edexcel · International GCSE · Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
nutrition /nju:'trɪʃn/	Plants get their **nutrition** by photosynthesis.
respiration /ˌrespɪ'reɪʃn/	**Respiration** releases energy that cells use to stay alive.
excretion /ek'skreʃn/	The kidneys carry out **excretion** of urea.
respond /rɪ'spɒnd/	Roots **respond** to gravity by growing downwards.
movement /'mu:vmənt/	Plants show **movement** when they turn towards light.
reproduce /rɪprə'dju:s/	Animals that survive can **reproduce** and pass on their genes.
grow /grəʊ/	Young plants **grow** as their cells divide and enlarge.
photosynthesis /ˌfəʊtəʊ'sɪnθəsɪs/	Plants make sugar by **photosynthesis**.
plants /plænts/	Green **plants** use light to make their own food.
chloroplast /'klɔ:rəʊplæst/	A **chloroplast** carries out photosynthesis.
cellulose /'selju:ləʊs/	Plant cell walls are made of **cellulose**.
starch /stɑ:tʃ/	Potatoes contain a lot of **starch**.
animals /'ænɪmlz/	**Animals** obtain food by eating other organisms or their products.
glycogen /'glaɪkədʒn/	The liver stores **glycogen**.

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fungi /'fʌŋgi/	Rose black spot is caused by **fungi**.
mycelium /maɪ'si:lɪəm/	A **mycelium** is a network of fungal threads.
hyphae /'haɪfi:/	**Hyphae** spread through the food as the fungus grows.
chitin /'tʃɪtɪn/	**Chitin** helps strengthen fungal cell walls.
saprotrophic nutrition /ˌsæprə'trəʊfɪk nju:'trɪʃn/	**Saprotrophic nutrition** involves digesting dead material outside the organism.
yeast /ji:st/	**Yeast** makes bread rise.
protoctists /'prəʊtəʊktɪsts/	Some **protoctists** have chloroplasts; others feed on organisms.
malaria /mæ'leərɪə/	**Malaria** is spread by mosquito bites.
bacteria /bæk'tɪərɪə/	Chlorine kills **bacteria** in drinking water.
plasmids /'plæzmɪdz/	Bacteria have small rings of DNA called **plasmids**.
circular DNA /'sɜ:kjʊlə ˌdi: en 'eɪ/	A bacterium keeps most of its genes on one loop of **circular DNA**.
pneumonia /nju:'məʊnɪə/	Some bacteria can cause **pneumonia** in the lungs.
viruses /'vaɪrəsɪz/	Flu and colds are caused by **viruses**.
pathogen /'pæθədʒn/	A virus that causes flu is a **pathogen**.
protein coat /'prəʊti:n kəʊt/	A **protein coat** surrounds the genes of a virus.

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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