# Structures and functions in living organisms

Pearson Edexcel · International GCSE · Biology · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **organelle** /ˌɔːgəˈnel/ | The nucleus is an **organelle**. |
| **cell** /sel/ | Every living thing is made of at least one **cell**. |
| **tissue** /ˈtɪʃuː/ | Muscle is a **tissue**. |
| **organ** /ˈɔːgən/ | The heart is an **organ**. |
| **system** /ˈsɪstəm/ | A pond is a **system** with water, plants and animals. |
| **cell differentiation** /sel ˌdɪfəˌrenʃiˈeɪʃn/ | **Cell differentiation** produces cells with different structures and jobs. |
| **enzyme** /ˈenzaɪm/ | The **enzyme** speeds up the reaction. |
| **biological catalyst** /ˌbaɪəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈkætəlɪst/ | An enzyme is a **biological catalyst**: it speeds up a reaction without being used up. |
| **active site** /ˈæktɪv saɪt/ | The substrate binds at the enzyme's **active site**. |
| **denaturation** /ˌdenətʃəˈreɪʃn/ | Cooking an egg causes **denaturation** of its proteins. |
| **diffusion** /dɪˈfjuːʒn/ | The smell of perfume spreads across a room by **diffusion**. |
| **osmosis** /ɒzˈməʊsɪs/ | Water enters the root by **osmosis**. |



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **active transport** /ˈæktɪv ˈtrænspɔːt/ | **Active transport** uses energy to move ions into root cells. |
| **peristalsis** /ˌperɪˈstælsɪs/ | **Peristalsis** pushes food along the gut through muscle contractions. |
| **villi** /ˈvɪlaɪ/ | **Villi** give the small intestine a large surface area. |
| **transpiration** /trænspəˈreɪʃn/ | **Transpiration** is the loss of water from leaves. |
| **haemoglobin** /ˌhiːməˈgləʊbɪn/ | **Haemoglobin** in red blood cells carries oxygen. |
| **homeostasis** /ˌhəʊmiːəˈstɑːsɪs/ | Sweating is part of **homeostasis**: it keeps body temperature steady. |
| **synapse** /ˈsɪnæps/ | A **synapse** is a small gap between two nerve cells. |
| **neurotransmitter** /ˈnjuːrətrænsmɪtə/ | A **neurotransmitter** crosses the gap between two neurones. |
| **auxin** /ˈɔːksɪn/ | **Auxin** makes plant cells grow longer. |
| **phototropism** /ˌfəʊtəʊˈtrəʊpɪzəm/ | Shoots grow towards light because of **phototropism**. |