Diseases and immunity

IGCSE Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
pathogen /ˈpæθədʒn/	A virus that causes flu is a **pathogen**.
disease /dɪˈziːz/	Flu is a **disease**.
transmissible disease /trænˈsmɪsɪbl dɪˈziːz/	A cold is a **transmissible disease**: it spreads from person to person.
host /həʊst/	A virus can only reproduce inside a **host** cell.
transmitted /trænˈsmɪtɪd/	Flu is **transmitted** by coughs and sneezes.
direct contact /daɪˈrekt ˈkɒntækt/	Some diseases spread by **direct contact**, such as touching.
body fluids /ˈbɒdi ˈfluːɪdz/	Blood and saliva are **body fluids**.
contaminated /kənˈtæmɪneɪtɪd/	Dirty water can be **contaminated** with germs.
vectors /ˈvektəz/	Mosquitoes are **vectors**: they carry malaria from person to person.
defences /dɪˈfensɪz/	The skin is one of the body's **defences** against germs.
mucus /ˈmjuːkəs/	**Mucus** traps dust in your nose.
stomach acid /ˈstʌmək ˈæsɪd/	**Stomach acid** kills germs in food.
white blood cells /waɪt blʌd selz/	**White blood cells** fight germs.
hygienic /haɪˈdʒiːnɪk/	Washing your hands is **hygienic**.

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Word	Example
sewage treatment /ˈsuːɪdʒ ˈtriːtmənt/	**Sewage treatment** cleans dirty water.
antigens /ˈæntɪdʒenz/	Germs have **antigens** on their surface.
antibodies /ˈæntɪbɒdiz/	**Antibodies** stick to germs.
proteins /ˈprəʊtiːnz/	Meat, eggs and beans are rich in **proteins**, which are made from amino acids.
lymphocytes /ˈlɪmfəsaɪts/	**Lymphocytes** make antibodies.
complementary /ˌkɒmplɪˈmentəri/	The active site has a **complementary** shape to the substrate.
phagocytes /ˈfægəsaɪts/	**Phagocytes** eat germs.
active immunity /ˈæktɪv ɪˈmjuːnɪti/	A vaccine gives **active immunity**.
vaccination /ˌvæksɪˈneɪʃn/	**Vaccination** protects children from measles.
memory cells /ˈmeməri selz/	**Memory cells** remember a germ.
herd immunity /hɜːd ɪˈmjuːnɪti/	When most people are vaccinated, **herd immunity** protects the rest.
eradicated	Smallpox was **eradicated** in 1980. 1980
passive immunity /ˈpæsɪv ɪˈmjuːnɪti/	Antibodies from a mother's milk give **passive immunity**.
placenta /pləˈsentə/	The **placenta** passes food and oxygen to the baby.

Word	Example
breast milk /brest mɪlk/	**Breast milk** contains antibodies.
breast-feeding /brest ˈfiːdɪŋ/	**Breast-feeding** protects a baby from some diseases.
infants /ˈɪnfənts/	**Infants** need milk.
cholera /ˈkɒlərə/	**Cholera** spreads through dirty water.
bacterium /bækˈtɪərɪəm/	A **bacterium** is a single cell with no nucleus.
toxin /ˈtɒksɪn/	The cholera bacterium makes a **toxin**.
chloride ions /ˈklɔːraɪd ˈaɪɒnz/	The toxin makes **chloride ions** leave the gut cells.
small intestine /smɔːl ɪnˈtestɪn/	Most food is absorbed in the **small intestine**.
osmosis /ɒzˈməʊsɪs/	Water enters the root by **osmosis**.
diarrhoea /ˌdaɪəˈrɪə/	Cholera causes severe **diarrhoea**.
dehydration /ˌdiːhaɪˈdreɪʃn/	**Dehydration** happens when the body loses too much water.
ions /ˈaɪɒnz/	Water molecules surround the **ions** as they dissolve.
oral rehydration solution	**Oral rehydration solution** replaces lost water and salts.

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