Variation and selection

IGCSE Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
variation /ˌveərɪˈeɪʃn/	People's heights show **variation**.
species /ˈspiːsiːz/	Lions and tigers are different **species**.
continuous variation /kənˈtɪnjuːəs ˌveərɪˈeɪʃn/	Height shows **continuous variation**.
phenotypes /ˈfenətaɪps/	Different **phenotypes** can come from different alleles.
discontinuous variation /dɪskənˈtɪnjuːəs ˌveərɪˈeɪʃn/	Blood group shows **discontinuous variation**.
ABO blood groups /ˌeɪ biː ˈəʊ blʌd gruːps/	The **ABO blood groups** are A, B, AB and O. ABO A、B、AB O
genes /dʒiːnz/	**Genes** control your eye colour.
environment /enˈvaɪrənmənt/	A fish lives in a water **environment**.
tally	Make a **tally** chart of the lengths.
histogram /ˈhɪstəgræm/	Draw a **histogram** with the bars touching.
bar chart /bɑːtʃɑːt/	Use a **bar chart** to compare the numbers of each kind of insect.
mutation /mjuːˈteɪʃn/	A **mutation** is a change in the DNA. DNA
alleles /əˈliːlz/	A gene can have different **alleles**.

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gene mutation /dʒiːn mjuːˈteɪʃn/	A **gene mutation** changes the DNA. DNA
base sequence /beɪs ˈsiːkwəns/	The **base sequence** of DNA is the genetic code. DNA
ionising radiation /ˈaɪənaɪzɪŋ ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃn/	X-rays are **ionising radiation**. X-rays
rate /reɪt/	The **rate** of reaction is faster when it is warm.
meiosis /meɪˈəʊsɪs/	**Meiosis** makes sperm and egg cells.
fertilisation /ˌfɜːtɪlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Fertilisation** happens when a sperm joins an egg.
adaptive feature /əˈdæptɪv ˈfiːtʃə/	A camel's hump is an **adaptive feature**.
adapted /əˈdæptɪd/	A cactus is **adapted** to dry places.
inherited /ɪnˈherɪtɪd/	Eye colour is **inherited** from your parents.
survive /səˈvaɪv/	Animals with thick fur **survive** the winter.
reproduce /rɪprəˈdjuːs/	Animals that survive can **reproduce**.
hydrophytes /ˈhaɪdrəfaɪts/	Water lilies are **hydrophytes**.
xerophytes /ˈzɪərəfaɪts/	Cacti are **xerophytes**.
transpiration /trænspəˈreɪʃn/	**Transpiration** is the loss of water from leaves.
natural selection /ˈnætʃərəl sɪˈlekʃn/	**Natural selection** means the best-suited animals survive and have young.

Word	Example
many offspring /ˈmeni ˈɒfsprɪŋ/	Fish lay eggs to produce **many offspring**.
competition /ˌkɒmpəˈtɪʃn/	Two plants are in **competition** for light.
resources /rɪˈzɔːsɪz/	Animals compete for **resources** such as food and water.
antibiotic /ˌæntɪbaɪˈɒtɪk/	An **antibiotic** kills bacteria.
bacteria /bækˈtɪərɪə/	Chlorine kills **bacteria** in drinking water.
resistant /rɪˈzɪstənt/	Some bacteria are **resistant** to antibiotics.
resistant strain	A **resistant strain** of bacteria is not killed by the antibiotic.
selective breeding /sɪˈlektɪv ˈbriːdɪŋ/	Farmers use **selective breeding** to get cows that give more milk.
artificial selection /ˌɑːtɪˈfɪʃl sɪˈlekʃn/	Dogs were made by **artificial selection**.
crops /krɒps/	Wheat and rice are **crops**.
yield /jiːld/	Fertilisers increase the **yield** of crops.

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