

Topic Vocabulary

Adolescence	The time between being a child and an adult.
Amnion	The bag and fluid that encloses a growing baby in its mother's uterus.
Amniotic fluid	Liquid surrounding the growing embryo and protecting it.
Ante-natal class	Many pregnant women attend these classes to find out more about pregnancy and childbirth. They learn ways to cope with problems.
Cervix	The entrance to the uterus from the vagina.
Cilia	Tiny, thin hair like projections found on the surface of cells lining the oviduct. They help waft the egg towards the uterus.
Circumcision	Removal of the foreskin.
Contraceptive	Method of preventing a woman from becoming pregnant.
Egg cell	The female sex cell.
Ejaculation	Semen is pumped out of a man's penis into the top of the vagina during sexual intercourse.
Embryo	Tiny new human life which grows by cell division.
Erection	When the penis becomes stiff.
External development	When offspring develop outside a mother.
External fertilisation	Occurs outside the body, as in fish.
Foetus	An organism in the very early stages of development once it has become recognisable as a particular species.
Fertilisation	When male and female sex cells (gametes) join together.
Fertilised egg cell	What is produced when a sperm cell fuses with an egg cell.
Foreskin	A covering of skin protecting the head of the penis.
Fuse	When two sex cells join together to form a fertilised egg cell.
Gamete	Sex cell. Either egg or sperm.
Glands	The glands in the male reproductive system add a special liquid to the sperm cells to make semen.
Hormone	Chemical that coordinates the body processes.

Internal fertilisation	Occurs inside the body, as in mammals.
IVF (in vitro fertilisation)	Fertilisation happens outside the woman in a dish. The embryo develops and is then placed inside her.
Labour	Time when the baby is about to be born.
Mammary glands	Glands contained in the breasts of women, which produce milk after childbirth.
Mature	Another word for develop.
Meiosis	Cell division which happens when sex cells are produced.
Menopause	When the ovaries in women stop releasing eggs.
Menstrual cycle	A series of events lasting about 28 days happening in the female reproductive system. The cycle includes the production of an egg cell and the lining of the uterus to being replaced.
Menstruation	When the lining of the uterus and a little blood pass out of the vagina as part of the menstrual cycle.
Mitosis	Cell division that happens when organisms are growing or replacing cells.
Navel	Scar left by the umbilical cord. Often called the 'belly button'.
Oestrogen	A sex hormone that helps to control the menstrual cycle and maintain female characteristics.
Offspring	Any plant or animal formed by reproduction.
Ovary	Female reproductive organ. Produces egg cells in plants and animals.
Oviduct	Egg tube.
Ovulation	Release of an egg cell from an ovary in women.
Ovum	The female sex cell (plural: ova).
Parent	An organism that has had an offspring.
Penis	An organ in the male which is used for reproduction and the removal of urine.
Period	Another term for menstruation. When the lining of the uterus is lost with a little blood, through the vagina.
Placenta	An organ which attaches to the inside of the uterus and allows the foetus to collect food and oxygen from the mother, and get rid of waste.
Pregnant	When a woman has an embryo growing inside her uterus.
Premature baby	A small baby born early.
Puberty	Time when physical changes happen in the body between the ages of about 11 and 15.

Reproductive organs	Organs used in sexual reproduction.
Reproductive system	All the reproductive organs.
Scrotum	The bag of skin that contains the testes.
Secondary sexual characteristics	Characteristics such as developing breasts in females and facial hair in males, which develop at puberty.
Semen	A mixture of sperm cells and fluids released by men during sexual intercourse.
Sex cell	A cell used for sexual reproduction.
Sex hormones	Chemicals released in our bodies that control the menstrual cycle and puberty.
Sexual reproduction	Producing new organisms by combining male and female gamete.
Sperm cell	The male sex cell (gamete).
Sperm count	The number of sperm cells in a certain volume of semen. Normally 20 million sperm per cm ³ .
Sperm duct	Tube that carries sperm from the testes to the urethra.
Testes	Plural of testis. Produce sperm cells.
Testosterone	Male hormone.
Test-tube baby	A baby that is produced by IVF.
Umbilical cord	Carries food, oxygen, and waste between the placenta and the growing foetus.
Urethra	A tube carrying semen or urine running down the centre of the penis in males. A tube carrying urine in females.
Uterus	Organ in females in which a baby develops.
Vagina	Tubes in females. The penis is placed here during sexual intercourse.
Zygote	A fertilised egg that is capable of developing into a new organism.
Pollination	The transfer of pollen to the female organs of a plant.
Fertilisation	The fusion of male and female gametes.
Sepal	Green parts that surround and protect the flower bud and extend from the base of a flower after it has opened.
Petal	Modified leaves that surround the reproductive parts of flowers. They are often brightly coloured or unusually shaped to attract pollinators.
Stamen	Male reproductive organ.

Filament	Stamen structure that supports the anther.
Anther	Stamen structure that produce the pollen.
Pollen	Male gamete.
Carpel	Female reproductive organ.
Ovary	Holds the ovule(s) and is located above or below or at the point of connection with the base of the petals and sepals.
Ovule	Female gamete.
Style	Long, slender stalk that connects the stigma and the ovary.