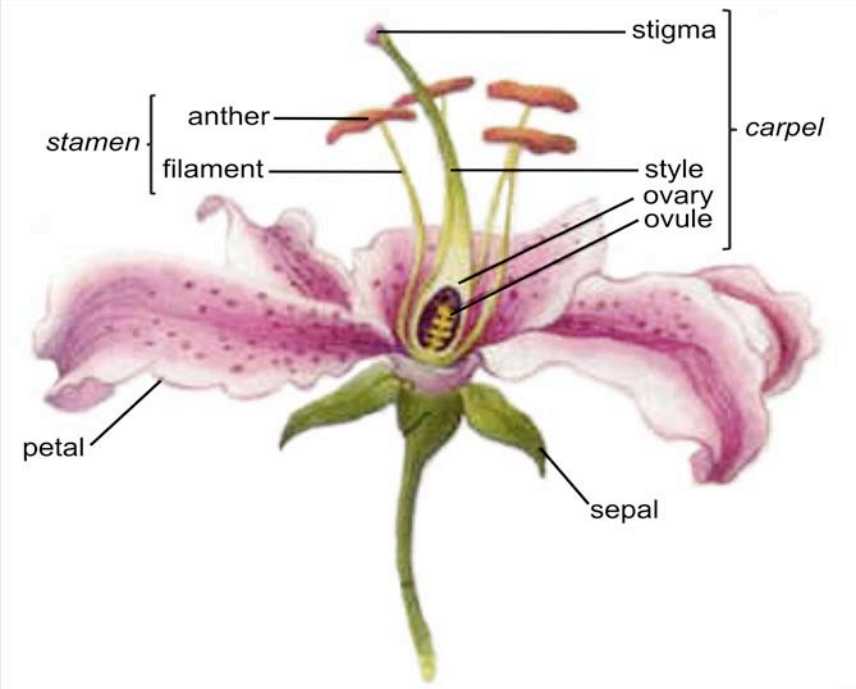
Structural parts of flowers

Flowers are composed of both male (stamens) and female (carpels) reproductive structures, which are frequently surrounded by attractive or protective leaf-like structures. The flower functions to protect the developing gametes as well as to ensure pollination and fertilization. The floral structures that you should become familiar with are illustrated below:



Dissected flower showing floral structures (see below for definition of labels).

List of floral structures (adapted from Morgan and Carter - 1993):

sepal	outer whorl of bracts; may be green, brown or colored like petals; may appear as small scales or be petal-like.
petal	colored, white, or even greenish whorl of bracts located just inside the sepals.
stamen	male (pollen-bearing) reproductive structure, composed of filament and anther.
filament	thin stalk that supports the anther.
anther	pollen-producing structure.
carpel	female reproductive structure, composed of the stigma, style, and ovary; often pear-shaped and located in the centre of the flower.
ovule	develops in the ovary and contains the female gametophyte.
ovary	base of the carpel; protects the ovules inside; matures to fruit.
style	tissue connecting stigma to ovary, often long and narrow, but may be short or absent; pollen grows through this tissue to fertilize the egg.
stigma	receptive tip of the carpel, often sticky and hairy, where pollen is placed.