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### Human Anatomy and Physiology Preparatory Course

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*CUNY Bronx Community College*

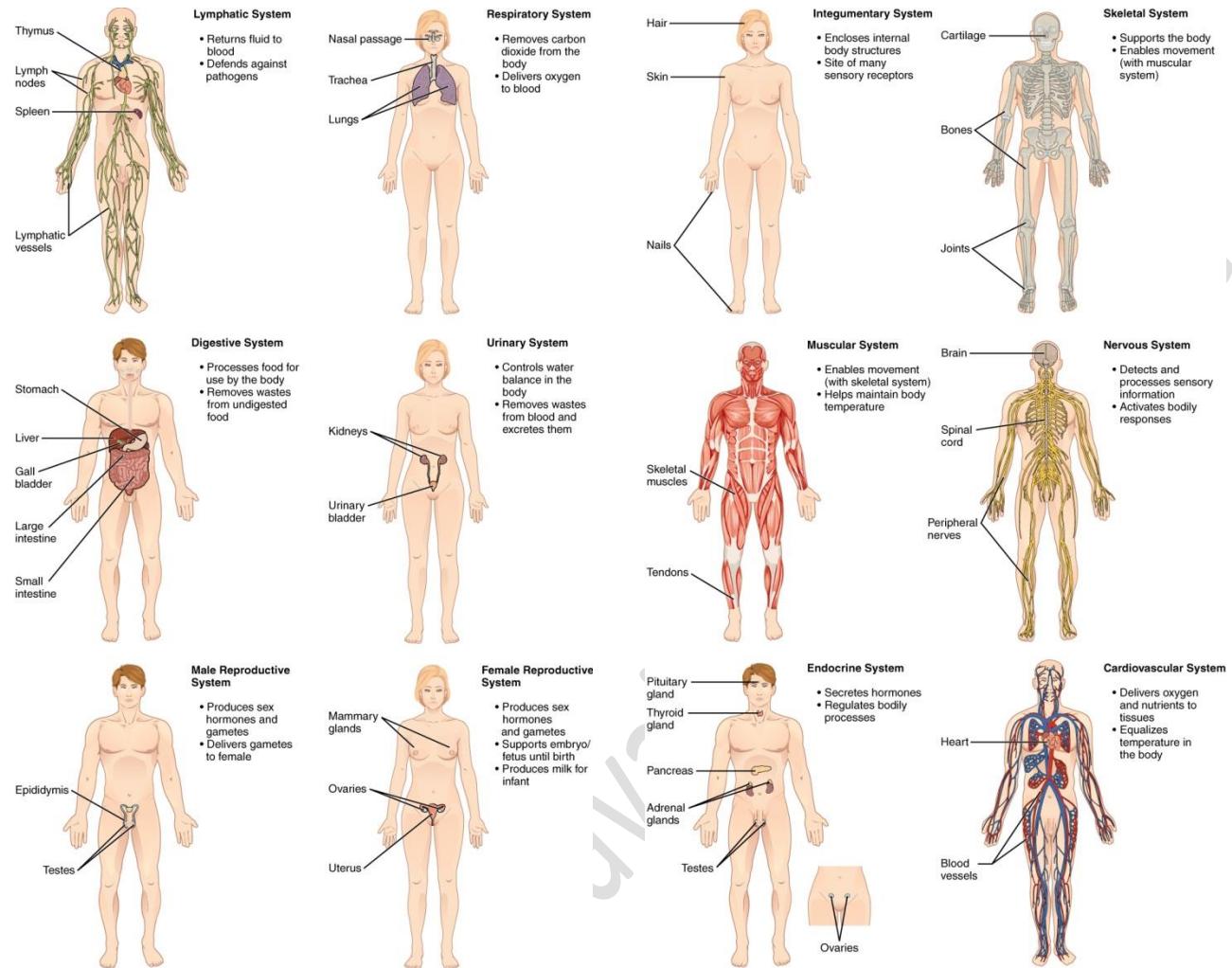
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**Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Bronx Community College of the City University of New York**

# **Human Anatomy and Physiology I**

## **Preparatory Course without Quizzes**

**by C. Liachovitzky**

**2015**



**[Instructions to Access the Prep Course with Quizzes HERE](#)**

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## **HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I PREPARATORY COURSE**

The overall purpose of this preparatory material is to help students familiarize with some terms and some basic concepts they will find later in the Human Anatomy and Physiology course.

The organization and functioning of the human organism generally is discussed in terms of different levels of increasing complexity, from the smallest building blocks to the entire body. This Anatomy and Physiology preparatory course covers the foundations on the chemical level, and a basic introduction to cellular level, organ level, and organ system levels. There is also an introduction to homeostasis at the beginning.

The material is divided into five **UNITS**, organized in fifteen **MODULES** covering a total of forty two **Learning Objectives**. There is an associated assessment component at the end of each learning objective.

### **Learning Objectives Content**

1. **Learning Objectives (LO)** are a derivative work of the most updated [Learning Outcomes Guidelines](#) by [The Human Anatomy and Physiology Society](#).
2. **Terms** associated with each LO are shown in **Arial Bold**.
3. **Ethymology** of many new terms is shown between brackets next to the term. Sources of words ethymology are [The Free Dictionary by Farlex](#), and [The Online Ethymology Dictionary](#).
4. **Figures** contain illustrations mostly from [Open Learning Initiative](#) by Carnegie Mellon University ([www.olc.cmu.edu](http://www.olc.cmu.edu)), and [OpenStax CNX](#) by Rice University (<http://cnx.org/>), and other open education resources, either in the public domain (free license), or licensed through [creative commons licenses](#) (mostly licensed by attribution, some share alike and noncommercial). Illustrations throughout the book include a link to their source.
5. **Tables** compare terms or facts easier to visualize in a table format, or summarize information
6. **Interactive Activities** There are a few interactive activities and tutorials available in the digital version to exemplify certain concepts, or clarify certain descriptions in the text. Their sources are cited next to them.

### **Assessment Content**

1. **Study Questions** addressing all terms, concepts and facts discussed within each learning objective. Most questions are knowledge questions (Bloom's taxonomy first level)
2. **Quizzes** written in the format that students usually find in college exams (mostly multiple-choice questions, with some true/false, and some fill in the blank). Quiz questions are a mix of knowledge, comprehension and application questions (Bloom's taxonomy first three levels)

### **Acknowledgments**

**Dr. M. Gannon** contributed with editing of this work and development of the question bank. Digital version of the Preparatory Course was possible thanks to **Bronx Community College Library Open Educational Resources Project**.

## **UNIT 1 - INTRODUCTION TO ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

### **MODULE 1: LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION OF THE HUMAN ORGANISM**

**Learning Objective 1: Describe, in order from simplest to most complex, the major levels of organization in the human organism**

All living and non-living things are made of one or more unique substances called **elements**, the smallest unit of which is the **atom**, (for example, the element oxygen (O) is made of O atoms, carbon (C) is made of C atoms and hydrogen (H) is made of H atoms. Atoms combine to form **molecules**. Molecules can be small (for example, O<sub>2</sub>, oxygen gas, which has 2 atoms of the element O; CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide, which has 1 atom of C and 2 of O), medium (for example, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, glucose, which has 6 atoms of C, 12 of H, and 6 of O); or large (for example molecules called proteins are made of hundreds of atoms of C, H, and O with other elements such as nitrogen (N). Molecules are the building blocks to all structures in the human body.

All living structures are made of **cells**, which are made of many different molecules. Cells are the smallest independent living thing in the human body. The body is made of many different cell types, each with a particular function, (for example muscle cells contract to move something, and red blood cells carry oxygen). All human cells are made of a cell membrane (thin outer layer) that encloses a jelly-like cellular fluid containing tiny organ-like structures called **organelles**. There are many types of organelles, each with a particular function (for example, organelles called mitochondrion provides energy to a cell). Different types of cells contain different amounts and types of organelles, depending on their function, (for example muscle cells use a lot of energy and therefore have many mitochondria while skin cells do not and have few mitochondria).

As in other multicellular organisms, cells in the human body are organized into tissues. A **tissue** is a group of similar cells that work together to perform a specific function. There are four main tissue types in humans (muscular, epithelial, nervous and connective). An **organ** is an identifiable structure of the body composed of two or more tissues types (for example, the stomach contains *muscular tissue* made of muscle cells, which allows it to change its shape, *epithelial tissue* which lines both the inner and outer surface of the stomach, *nervous tissue* which sends and receives signals to and from the stomach and the central nervous system, and *connective tissue* which binds everything together). Organs often perform a specific physiological function (for example, the stomach helps digest food). An **organ system** is a group of organs that work together to perform a specific function (for example, the stomach, small and large intestines are all organs of the digestive system, that work together to digest foodstuff, move nutrients into the blood and get rid of waste). The most complex level of organization, the human **organism** is

composed of many organ systems that work together to perform the functions of an independent individual.

### *Summarizing:*

The major levels of organization in the body, from the simplest to the most complex are: atoms, molecules, organelles, cells, tissues, organs, organ systems and the human organism. See below Figure 1.1.

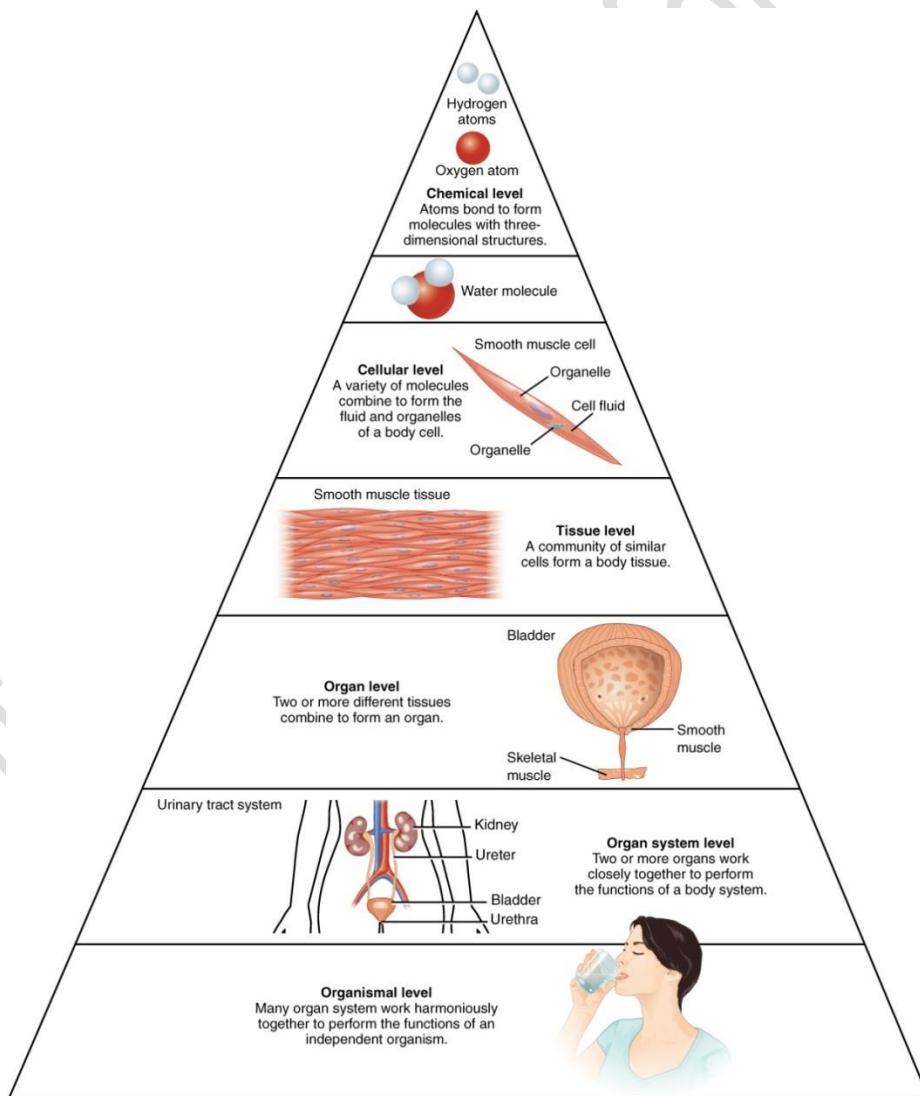
The following modules are designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the chemical level of organization and how this is related to cell structure and function which is needed to understand how the human body functions in health and disease.

**Figure 1.1**

Hierarchical levels of organization of the human body from the smallest chemical level to the largest organismal level.

Read the description, and examples for each level in the pyramid: Chemical level, Cellular level, Tissue level, Organ level, Organ system level, and Organismal level

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## **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an element?
2. What is an atom?
3. What is a molecule?
4. What is a cell?
5. What is an organelle?
6. What is a tissue?
7. What is an organ?
8. What is an organ system?
9. What is an organism?
10. What are the levels of organization in the human organism (list them from the smallest to the largest)?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## MODULE 2: WHAT IS HUMAN ANATOMY, WHAT IS HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

**Learning Objective 2: Define the terms anatomy and physiology, and give specific examples to show the interrelationship between anatomy and physiology**

Human **Anatomy** (ana- = “up”, tome = “to cut”) is often defined as the study of structures in the human body. Anatomy focuses on the description of *form*, or how body structures at different levels *look*. **Gross anatomy** studies macroscopic structures (for example, the body, organs, and organ systems), and **histology** studies microscopic structures (for example, tissues, cells, and organelles).

Human **Physiology** (physio = “nature”; -logy = “study”) studies the “nature” of the human body, nature in the sense of how structures at different levels work. Physiology focuses on *function*, or how structures at different levels *work*.

Anatomy and physiology are intimately related. A hand is able to grab things (*function*) because the length, shape, and mobility of the fingers (*form*) determine what things a hand can grab (*function*). A muscle contracts and brings bones together (*function*) due to the arrangement of muscles and bones, and the arrangement of organelles inside of

muscle cells (form) determines how much and for how long a muscle can contract (function).

Body structure functions depend on their form. The way structures work depend on the way they are organized. So understanding Physiology requires an understanding of Anatomy, and vice versa.

### **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is anatomy?
2. What is gross anatomy?
3. What is histology?
4. What is physiology?

#### **QUIZ**

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## **MODULE 3: HOMEOSTASIS AND CONTROL SYSTEMS**

### **Learning Objective 3: Define homeostasis**

**Homeostasis** (homeo- = "like, resembling, of the same kind"; stasis = "standing still") means to maintain body functions within specific livable ranges, adjusting to internal and external changes. Temperature, nutrient concentration, acidity, water, sodium, calcium, oxygen, as well as blood pressure, heart rate, and respiratory rate are some of the internal body variables that must remain within a certain range. When the body fails to maintain internal body variables within a certain range, normal function is interrupted, and disease or illness may result.

### **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. Which are some of the internal body variables that must remain within a certain range?
2. What happens when internal body variables are out of a certain range?
3. What is homeostasis?

### QUIZ

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## Learning Objective 4: Define control system and describe its components

Anything that must be maintained in the body within a normal range must have a **control system**. A control system consists of four components:

**Stimulus, or physiological variable that changes**, is the item to be regulated. *Variable* in the broad sense is a value that varies or changes. Two examples of variables that change are body temperature and blood glucose. Anything that can be measured and varies is a variable.

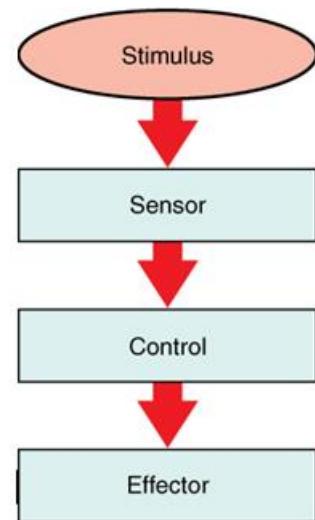
**Sensor, or sensory receptor**, is the cell, tissue, or organ that senses the change in the stimulus or physiological variable. For example, sensory nerve cell endings in the skin sense a raise of body temperature, and specialized cells in the pancreas sense a drop in blood glucose. The sensory receptor or sensor provides input to the control center.

**Control center** is the body structure that determines the normal range of the variable, or **set point**. For example, an area of the brain called the hypothalamus determines the set point for body temperature (around 37°C, or 98.6°F), and specialized cells in the pancreas determine the set point for blood glucose (around 70-100mg/dL). To maintain homeostasis, the control center responds to the changes in the stimulus received from the sensor by sending signals to effectors.

**Effector** is the cell, tissue, or organ that responds to signals from the control center, thus providing a response to the stimulus (physiological variable that changed) in order to maintain homeostasis. For example, sweat glands (effectors) throughout the body release sweat to lower body temperature; and cells of the liver (effectors) release glucose to raise blood glucose levels. See the four components of a control system in below Figure 1.2 below.

**Figure 1.2** Components of a Control System: stimulus or physiological variable that changes, sensor or sensory receptor, control center, and effector

Art derivative of [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)



### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

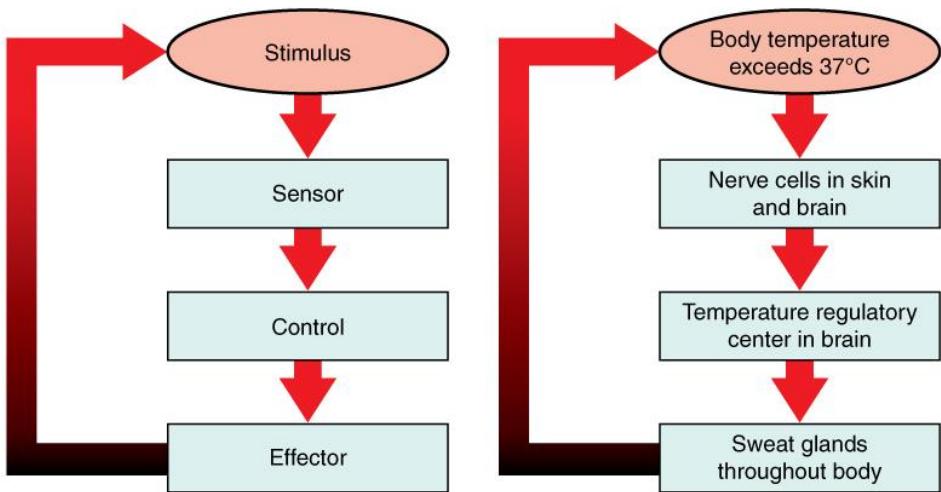
1. What are the four components of a control system?
2. Define stimulus using two examples
3. What is a sensor (or sensory receptor)?
4. What is a control center?
5. What is a set point?
6. What is an effector?

#### QUIZ

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### Learning Objective 5: Define negative feedback and give one example using body temperature

Most control systems maintain homeostasis by a process called **negative feedback**. Negative feedback prevents a physiological variable or a body function from going beyond the normal range. It does this by reversing a physiological variable change (stimulus) once the normal range is exceeded. The components of a negative feedback are the sensor (or sensory receptor), the control center (where the set point is), and the effector. See figure 1.3 below.



(a) Negative feedback loop

(b) Body temperature regulation

**Figure 1.3** In a negative feedback loop, a stimulus—a deviation from a set point—is resisted through a physiological process that returns the body to homeostasis. (a) A negative feedback loop has four basic parts. (b) Body temperature is regulated by negative feedback.

Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is negative feedback?

### QUIZ

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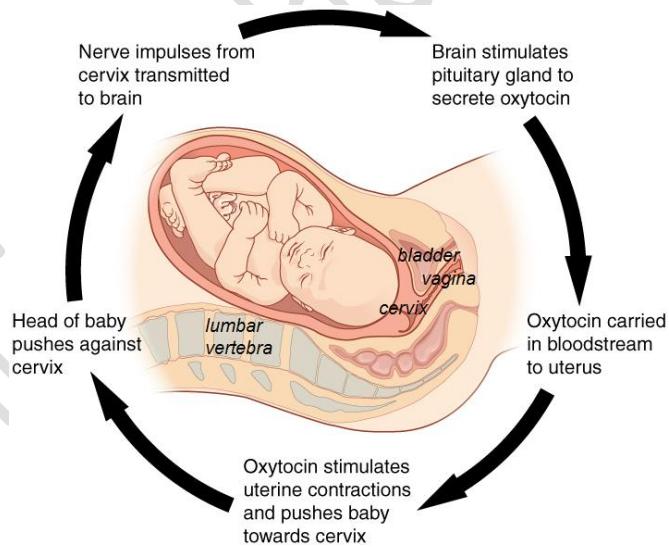
**Learning Objective 6: Define positive feedback and give one example; also, compare and contrast positive and negative feedback in terms of the relationship between response and result**

**Positive feedback** is a mechanism that intensifies a change in the body's physiological condition rather than reversing it (as a negative feedback mechanism does). A deviation from the normal range results in more change, and the system moves farther

away from the normal range. Positive feedback in the body is normal only when there is a definite end point.

Childbirth is one example of a positive feedback loop that is normal but is activated only when needed. The first contractions of labor (stimulus) push the baby toward the cervix (the lowest part of the uterus). The cervix contains stretch-sensitive cells (sensors) that monitor the degree of stretching. These nerve cells send messages to the brain (control center), which in turn causes the pituitary gland at the base of the brain to release the hormone oxytocin into the bloodstream. Oxytocin causes stronger contractions of the smooth muscles (effectors) in the uterus, pushing the baby further down the birth canal. This causes even greater stretching of the cervix. The cycle of stretching, oxytocin release, and increasingly more forceful contractions stops only when the baby is born. At this point, the stretching of the cervix halts, stopping the release of oxytocin. The end result in a positive feedback loop is to reach an *end point* (delivery) as opposed to reach a *set point* as in negative feedback. See figure 1.4 below for an example, and table 1.1 for a comparison between negative feedback and positive feedback.

**Figure 1.4** Normal childbirth is driven by a positive feedback loop. A positive feedback loop results in a change in the body's status, rather than a return to a set point. Art derivative of [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)



**Table 1.1** Comparison between negative feedback and positive feedback.

	Negative Feedback	Positive Feedback
<b>Example</b>	Regulation of body temperature or blood glucose	Normal childbirth
<b>Response</b>	Reverses a change in a physiological condition	Intensifies a change in physiological condition
<b>Result</b>	Return to a set point	Reach an end point
<b>Overall</b>	Provides stability	Accelerates a process to completion

## **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is positive feedback?
2. How are negative and positive feedback different (Compare response, result, and overall)

### **QUIZ**

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## **UNIT 2 – INTRODUCTION TO ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY CHEMICAL BUILDING BLOCKS**

### **MODULE 1: ATOMS**

**Learning Objective 7: Define the term atom and describe its structure in terms of location and charge of its subatomic particles**

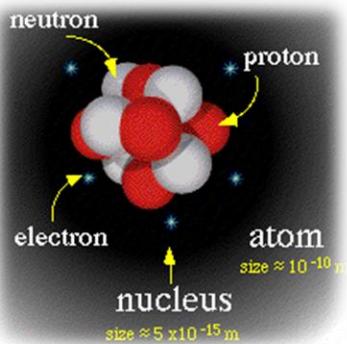
**Matter** is anything that has mass and takes up space. All things in the universe (i.e. living and non-living things) are considered to be matter. The smallest component of matter normally found is the **atom**. Then, all things in the universe (including humans) are made of atoms.

Atoms themselves are composed of even smaller **subatomic particles** (extremely tiny things) called neutrons, protons, and electrons. **Protons** have a positive electrical charge (+), **electrons** have a negative electrical charge (-), and **neutrons** are electrically neutral, meaning they have no charge.

Each one of the different types of atoms in the universe has the same number of protons and electrons. Then, all and every atom in the universe is electrically neutral. For example, one atom of sodium has 11 electrons (-) and 11 protons (+). The 11 positive protons cancel out the 11 negative electrons, and the overall charge of the atom is zero.

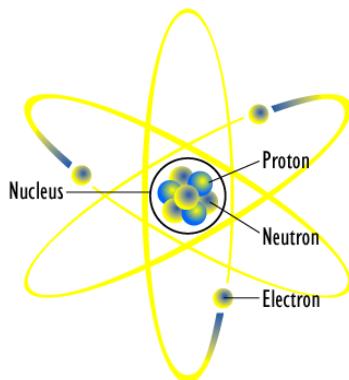
Protons and neutrons each weigh one atomic mass unit (amu), and are located at the core of the atom, or **nucleus**. Electrons move within orbital clouds around the nucleus

in **orbital shells**. Electrons are so small that their mass is considered zero. See figure 2.1 and 2.2 below, and do activities 2.1 and 2.2 below.



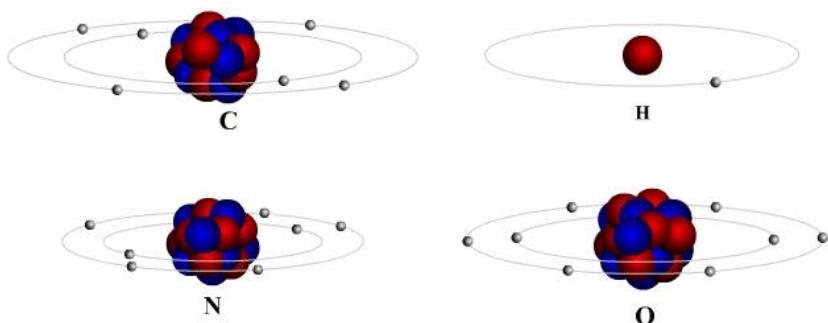
**Figure 2.1** Representation of an atom. This atom in particular has five electrons and five protons; it is neutral as all atoms are. Electrons' masses are extremely small compared with protons' and neutrons' masses. Art by [Berkeley Lab; Public Domain](#)

The figure below shows a typical planetary representation of an atom highlighting orbital shells.



**Figure 2.2** Representation of an atom as a planetary model. This atom has three protons and three electrons; then, it is neutral, as all atoms are. Electrons are represented much bigger than what they really are, only so they can be clearly seen. Art by [Fastfission CC-BY-SA](#)

**Activity 2.1** Count the number of protons and electrons in the Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, and Nitrogen atoms shown below. Protons are red and neutrons are blue. Each atom should have the same number of protons as electrons.



**Activity 2.2** Follow [this](#) link to assess your understanding of atomic structure.

By [University of Maryland University College CC-BY-NC](#)

## Subatomic Particles

(Block...)

Correct!

<b>Proton</b>	<b>Electron</b>	<b>Neutron</b>
		<b>1 No electrical charge</b>
<b>Electrical Charge</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Mass</b>
<b>1 No electrical charge</b>	<b>4 Nucleus</b>	<b>6 Mass of 1 atomic mass unit</b>
<b>2 Negative charge</b>	<b>5 Orbital shells</b>	<b>7 Mass of 0</b>
<b>3 Positive charge</b>		

**Reset**

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an atom?
2. What is a subatomic particle?
3. How many different types of subatomic particles are there in an atom?
4. Where are the different subatomic particles located in an atom?
5. Which subatomic particle is positive?
6. Which subatomic particle is negative?
7. Which subatomic particle is neutral?
8. What is the *overall* charge of an atom (positive, negative, neutral)?
9. What is an orbital shell?

### QUIZ

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### Learning Objective 8: Define the term element and distinguish between atom and element

While all atoms are made of subatomic particles (protons, neutrons, and electrons) not all atoms are the same. There are 118 different types of atoms, called **elements**. Each element has unique physical and chemical properties. For example, the element carbon and the element oxygen have different melting points, different densities, and different

colors. An atom is the smallest unit of an element that retains the properties of that element. We can also define an **element** as a substance that is made of a single type of atom. See figure 2.3 below



**Figure 2.3** From left to right, images of the elements sodium (solid), nitrogen (liquid), and oxygen (colorless gas bubbles in the pale blue liquid). The element sodium is made of sodium atoms, the element nitrogen is made of nitrogen atoms, and the element oxygen is made of oxygen atoms.

Art by [Dnn87 CC BY-SA 3.0](#) (Sodium), [Cory Doctorow CC BY-SA 2.0](#) (Nitrogen), and Dr. Warwick Hillier [GPL](#) (Oxygen)

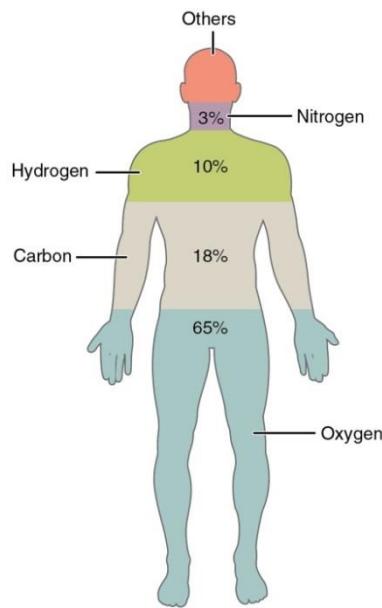
All known elements in the universe are organized in a chart called the **Periodic Table of Elements**. The table arranges elements according to their chemical properties, their number of protons, and the way electrons are organized in orbital shells. Elements are symbolized by a **chemical symbol** (one- or two-letter abbreviation). See figure 2.4 below

Group →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
↓ Period	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	H														He			
2	Li	Be																
3	Na	Mg																
4	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
6	Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
7	Fr	Ra	**	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo
*	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu			
**	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr			

**Figure 2.4** A standard 18-column form of the Periodic Table of Elements. This figure shows the simplest representation of the table with basic information.

Art by [DePiep CC-BY-SA](#)

The human body is composed of many different elements as shown in figure 2.5 below. For example, carbon (C), hydrogen (H), oxygen (O), nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and calcium (Ca), make up 98.5% of the human body weight. Other important elements are potassium (K), sulfur (S), sodium (Na), chlorine (Cl), and magnesium (Mg).



Element	Symbol	Percentage in Body
Oxygen	O	65.0
Carbon	C	18.5
Hydrogen	H	9.5
Nitrogen	N	3.2
Calcium	Ca	1.5
Phosphorus	P	1.0
Potassium	K	0.4
Sulfur	S	0.3
Sodium	Na	0.2
Chlorine	Cl	0.2
Magnesium	Mg	0.1
Trace elements include boron (B), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), fluorine (F), iodine (I), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo), selenium (Se), silicon (Si), tin (Sn), vanadium (V), and zinc (Zn).		less than 1.0

**Figure 2.5**

The main elements that compose the human body

Art by  
[OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an element?
2. What is the difference between an atom and an element?
3. What is a chemical symbol?
4. What is the Periodic Table of Elements?

### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## Learning Objective 9: Distinguish between the terms atomic number and mass number

All elements differ in their physical and chemical properties. These properties are given by the number of subatomic particles (protons, electrons and neutrons) they carry. The number of protons an atom carries in its nucleus determines which element it is. For example, one atom of the element carbon (C) always has six protons in its nucleus; and one atom of the element oxygen (O) always has eight protons in its nucleus. In short, all atoms with a particular number of protons belong to the same element

The number of protons in an atom is denoted by the **atomic number**, which is shown as a number in the periodic table, usually shown above the chemical symbol of the element. Then, the atomic numbers above each element in the periodic table show the number of protons of each element.

Since atoms are electrically neutral (they carry the same number of protons as electrons); then, the number of protons tells us the number of electrons an element has. For example, nitrogen (N) has an atomic number of 7 (see the periodic table below). Then, nitrogen must have seven protons, and it must also have seven electrons. Sodium (Na) has an atomic number of 11; then, sodium must have eleven protons, and it must also have eleven electrons. The same applies to all elements in the periodic table. See figure 2.6 below.

The Periodic Table of Elements																			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
1 H 1.008	2 He 4.003	3 Li 6.941	4 Be 9.012	5 B 10.81	6 C 12.01	7 N 14.01	8 O 16.00	9 F 19.00	10 Ne 20.18	11 Al 26.98	12 Si 28.09	13 P 30.97	14 S 32.07	15 Cl 35.45	16 Ar 39.95				
11 Na 22.99	12 Mg 24.31	19 K 39.30	20 Ca 40.08	21 Sc 44.96	22 Ti 47.87	23 V 50.94	24 Cr 52.00	25 Mn 54.94	26 Fe 55.84	27 Co 58.93	28 Ni 58.69	29 Cu 63.55	30 Zn 65.39	31 Ga 69.72	32 Ge 72.61	33 As 74.92	34 Se 78.96	35 Br 79.90	36 Kr 83.80
37 Rb 85.47	38 Sr 87.62	37 Y 88.90	38 Zr 91.22	37 Nb 92.91	38 Mo 95.94	38 Tc 98	37 Ru 101.07	37 Rh 102.90	38 Pd 106.42	37 Ag 107.87	36 Cd 112.41	37 In 114.81	36 Sn 118.71	37 Sb 121.76	37 Te 127.60	38 I 126.90	38 Xe 131.29		
55 Cs 132.9	56 Ba 137.3	57-70 Lu 174.97	71 Hf 176.49	72 Ta 180.95	73 W 183.84	74 Re 186.20	75 Os 190.23	76 Ir 192.22	78 Pt 195.08	79 Au 196.97	80 Hg 200.59	80 Tl 204.38	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 208.98	84 Po 209	85 At 210	86 Rn 222		
87 Fr 223	88 Ra 226	89-102 Lr 262	103 Rf 261	104 Db 262	105 Sg 263	106 Bh 262	107 Hs 265	108 Mt 266	109 Ds [281]	110 Rg [272]	111 Uub [285]	112 Uuq [289]	114 Uuh [292]	116 Uuo [296]	118				
Lanthanoids																			
Actinoids																			
57 La 138.90	58 Ce 140.12	59 Pr 140.91	60 Nd 144.24	61 Pm 145	62 Sm 150.36	63 Eu 151.96	64 Gd 157.25	65 Tb 158.92	66 Dy 162.50	67 Ho 164.93	68 Er 167.23	69 Tm 168.93	70 Yb 173.04						
89 Ac [227]	90 Th 232.04	91 Pa 231.04	92 U 238.03	93 Np [237]	94 Pu [244]	95 Am [243]	96 Cm [247]	97 Bk [247]	98 Cf [251]	99 Es [252]	100 Fm [257]	101 Md [258]	102 No [259]						

**Figure 2.6** Periodic Table of Elements showing symbols, atomic numbers and mass numbers. The actual mass of an atom is known as its weight on planet Earth. Then, we consider atomic weight and mass number as the same

Art by [Open Learning Initiative CC-BY-NC-CA](#)

The atomic mass of an element is mostly the mass of its neutrons and its protons (since electrons have a negligible mass). For example, the atomic mass of carbon (C) is 12. This comes from adding the number of protons (6) plus the number of neutrons (6), each of which weighs 1 amu. The atomic mass is shown as a decimal number called the **mass number** in the periodic table, usually shown below the chemical symbol of the element. For the objectives of this course, we consider atomic weight and atomic mass to mean the same thing and ignore the decimal points in the mass number.

Summarizing:

**Atomic Number** = Number of protons = Number of electrons

**Mass Number** = **Atomic Weight** = Number of protons + Number of neutrons

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is the atomic number of an element?
2. What is the mass number of an element?
3. How are atomic number, number of protons and number of electron related?
4. How are mass number, number of protons and number of neutrons related?

### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

### Learning Objective 10: Describe the arrangement of electrons in atoms, define valence electrons, and explain the octet rule

Electrons are arranged in orbital shells (layers) surrounding the atom's nucleus. The first shell can carry up to two electrons, the second shell can carry up to eight electrons, and the third shell [can carry up to eighteen electrons but] is usually filled with up to eight electrons. For example, the atomic number of nitrogen is 7. This means that nitrogen has seven protons, and therefore has seven electrons. Two electrons fill the first orbital shell, and five electrons go to the second orbital shell. Hydrogen's atomic number is 1. This means that hydrogen has one proton, and also one electron, which goes to the first shell. Sodium's atomic number is 11, so sodium has eleven protons and eleven electrons. The first two fill the first orbital shell, eight more fill the second orbital shell, and the last electron goes to the third orbital shell. Practice this doing activity 2.3 below.

An atom is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. There are two main areas in an atom - the nucleus and the orbital shells. Drag each label to the correct location in the atom.

**Label these areas of the atom:**

- █ nucleus
- first orbital shell
- second orbital shell
- third orbital shell

**Label these parts of the atom:**

- protons
- neutrons
- Can hold 1-2 electrons
- Can hold 1-8 electrons
- Can hold 1-8 electrons

RESET

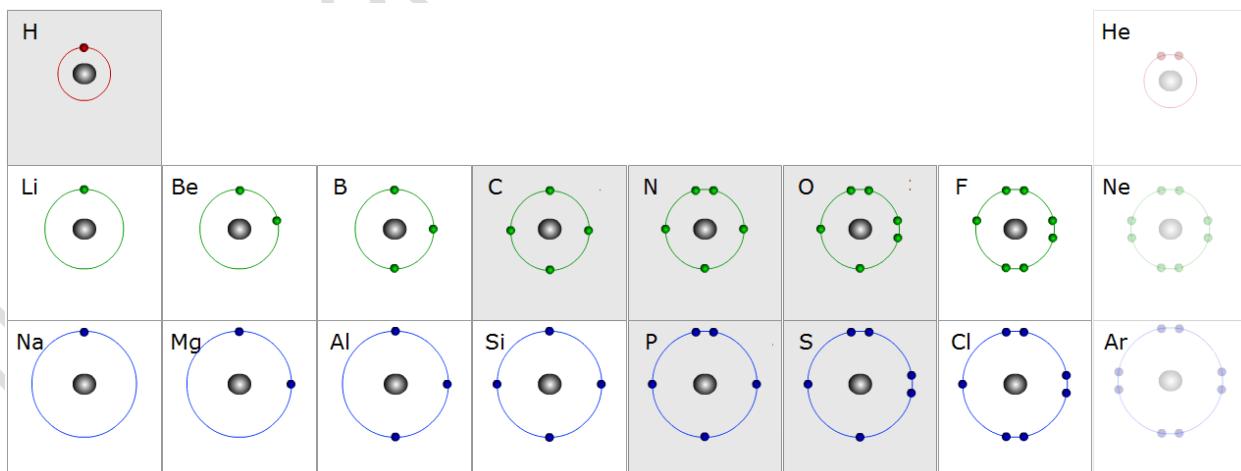
**Activity 2.3** Follow [this](#) link to apply your understanding of atomic structure and electrons distribution in orbital shells.

Art by [University of Maryland University College CC-BY-NC](#)

Single atoms by themselves are unstable and chemically reactive (unless their outermost electron shell is already filled with electrons). This means that they tend to react and bond with other atoms until they become non-reactive, or stable. As it is stated by the **Octet Rule**

**Rule** (oct- = eight), many elements become stable when they have eight electrons in their outermost orbital shell (except hydrogen, which becomes stable having two). For example, nitrogen has five electrons in its second and outermost shell, and completes eight by sharing three electrons with other atom(s). This makes nitrogen stable, which means that by completing an octet it does not need to react with any other atom. We will explore this rule further in a following learning objective.

The number of electrons in the outermost shell of atoms determines the type of bonding that occurs between atoms of the same, or different elements. The electrons found in the outermost shell, and involved in chemical bonding, are called **valence electrons**. Do activity 2.4 below.



**Activity 2.4** Valence electrons for the some of first elements in the Periodic table. Count the electrons for each element . Note that the first shell has up to two electrons, the

second shell up to eight, and the third up to eight too. Electrons in the outermost shell are valence electrons. Go [here](#) to show/hide inner orbitals.

Activity by [Open Learning Initiative CC-BY-NC-SA](#)

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What does the octet rule say?
2. What are valence electrons?

### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## Learning Objective 11: Define the terms ion, cation, anion, and electrolyte

In order to follow the octet rule and end up with eight electrons in the valence shell (the outermost shell) usually atoms with one or two valence electrons tend to give them away to atoms with six or seven valence electrons that need one or two more electrons to complete eight.

For example, sodium (Na) has a total of eleven electrons: two electrons in the first shell, eight electrons in the second, and one more in the third. By giving up this last electron to an atom of another element, the second shell becomes the outermost, and sodium has eight electrons in its (new) valence shell. Initially, sodium had eleven positive charges from its eleven protons, and eleven negative charges from its eleven electrons, with an overall charge equal to zero. Now that sodium lost one negative charge (the electron), it has an extra positive charge and becomes a **cation**, a positively charged particle.

In contrast, chlorine (Cl) has a total of seventeen electrons: two electrons in the first shell, eight electrons in the second shell, and seven more in the third (valence shell). By taking up one electron from an atom of other element, its third shell completes eight electrons. Initially, chlorine had seventeen positive charges from its seventeen protons, and seventeen negative charges from its seventeen electrons, with an overall charge equal to zero. Now that chlorine gained one negative charge (the electron), it has an extra negative charge and becomes an **anion**, a negatively charged particle.

Positively or negatively charged particles are called **ions**. In the two examples above, the *element sodium* becomes a *sodium ion* ( $\text{Na}^+$ ), a **cation**; and the *element chlorine* becomes a *chloride ion*  $\text{Cl}^-$ , an **anion**.

Cations are represented with a superscripted plus sign (+) for each electron lost, and anions are represented with a superscripted minus sign (-) for each electron gained. A single atom can form an ion like in  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ;  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ; and also a group of atoms, or parts of a molecule, can form ions like in  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ .

Electrically charged particles, such as ions, are also called **electrolytes**. For example, all the ions listed in the previous paragraph are electrolytes. Electrolytes usually dissolve well in water, and a mixture of water and electrolytes can conduct electrical currents.

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a cation?
2. What is an anion?
3. What is an ion?
4. What is the difference between an element and an ion?
5. What is an electrolyte?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## MODULE 2: CHEMICAL BONDS

**Learning Objective 12: Define chemical bonding, molecules, salts and compounds; and list three types of chemical bonds important for the study of human physiology**

Atoms and ions can combine by chemical bonds. A **chemical bond** is an interaction between atoms or ions that stabilizes their outer shells. The interaction happens among the valence electrons (the ones in the outermost orbital shell). As a product of this interaction, participating atoms complete eight electrons in their outermost shells, form a chemical bond, and become stable.

Chemical bonding is responsible for the formation of molecules and salts. **Molecules** are substances composed of two or more **atoms** held together by a chemical bond. For example, in a molecule of carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) the atom of carbon and the two atoms of oxygen are held together by chemical bonds. **Salts** are substances composed of **ions** held together by a chemical bond. For example, in a crystal of NaCl, table salt,  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  are held together by a chemical bond.

Salts and molecules made up of two or more atoms of different elements are called **compounds**. For example  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and NaCl are compounds, whereas  $\text{O}_2$  or  $\text{H}_2$  are not.

There are three types of chemical bonds important for the study of the human physiology. These are **ionic bonds**, **covalent bonds**, and **hydrogen bonds**.

**Ionic bonds** occur between ions with opposite charges (between anions and cations); **covalent bonds** occur between atoms of the same molecule; and **hydrogen bonds** occur between atoms in different molecules (one of them being hydrogen), or different parts of the same molecule.

### **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a chemical bond?
2. What subatomic particles participate in a chemical bond?
3. What is a molecule?
4. What is a salt?
5. What is a compound?
6. What is an ionic bond?
7. What is a covalent bond?
8. What is a hydrogen bond?

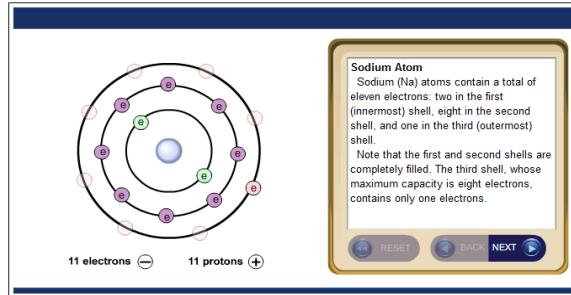
#### **QUIZ**

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

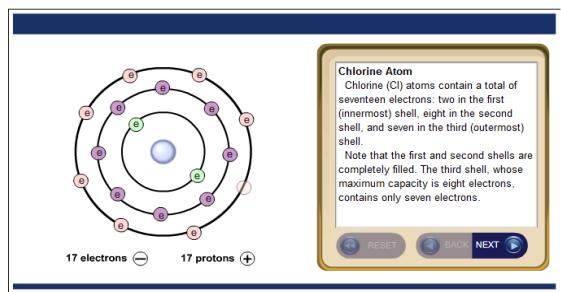
## Learning Objective 13: Define ionic bonds and describe how they form, and define salts

**Ionic bonds** are formed by the electrical attraction between ions of opposite charges. The attraction between a cation and an anion forms an ionic bond.

Ions form when atoms take on or give up electrons following the octet rule. Do activities 2.5 and 2.6 below

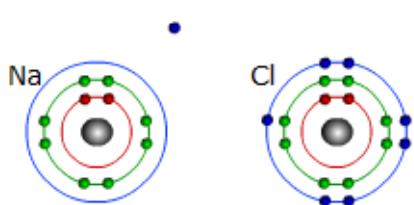


**Activity 2.5** Sodium atom (Na) losing one valence electron and becoming the sodium cation ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) can be seen [here](#).  
Activity by [University of Maryland University College CC-BY-NC](#)



**Activity 2.6** Chlorine atom (Cl) taking on one electron and becoming the chlorine anion ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ) can be seen [here](#).

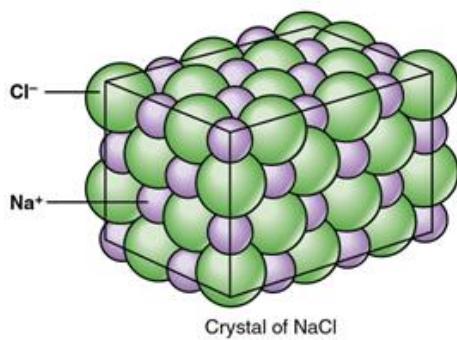
Activity by [University of Maryland University College CC-BY-NC](#)



**Figure 2.7** See [here](#) how sodium (Na) transfers one valence electron to chlorine (Cl), and the ionic attraction between the sodium cation ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) and the chlorine anion ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ) forms an ionic bond.  $\text{NaCl}$  has been formed.

Animation by [Open Learning Initiative CC-BY-NC-SA](#)

**Salts** are a class of compounds formed by ionic bonds between ions. For example  $\text{NaCl}$ , table salt, forms when  $\text{Na}^+$  forms an ionic bond with  $\text{Cl}^-$ . See the structure of  $\text{NaCl}$  below in figure 2.8. When a salt crystal is placed in water –as you can observe by placing table salt crystals in a glass of water-, it dissociates (separates) into its forming ions, or electrolytes, in a way that we will explore in an upcoming learning objective.



**Figure 2.8** The structure of a NaCl crystal is given by the interaction of its forming ions,  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ , which are linked by ionic bonds

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

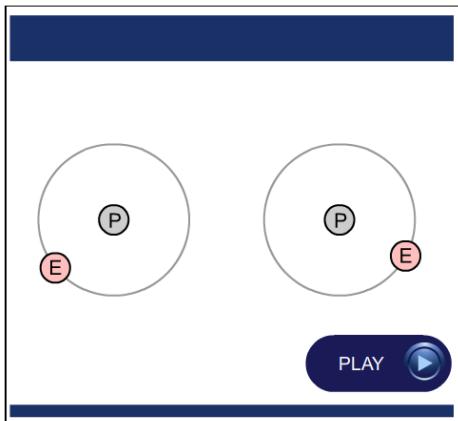
1. What is an ionic bond?
2. What is a salt?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

### Learning Objective 14: Define covalent bonds and describe how they form, and differentiate between the two types of covalent bond

Instead of taking on or giving up electrons completely as happens in ionic bonding, atoms with four or more valence electrons may share pairs of electrons so both atoms' outer shells complete eight electrons (or two for the case of hydrogen). Each pair of shared electrons moves in an orbital cloud around the nuclei of the *two* atoms. This sharing of electrons between atoms is called a **covalent bond** (co-= "together, mutually, in common", valent = relative to the valence electron). See below in activity 2.8 how two atoms of hydrogen form a covalent bond.



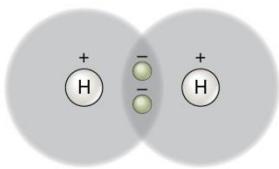
**Activity 2.8** See how two hydrogen atoms (each carrying one electron in the outer shell) share electrons to complete two in their outer shells [here](#). Note that the pair of electrons moves around the two nuclei, and this is what keeps the two hydrogen atoms together forming a molecule. The two electrons moving around the two nuclei is what is meant by “sharing”.

Animation by [University of Maryland University College CC-BY-NC](#)

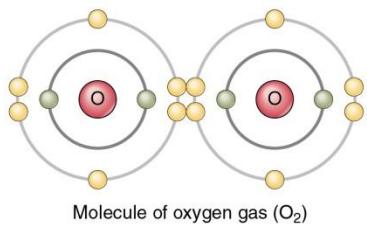
In a **single covalent bond**, a pair of electrons is shared between two atoms, while in a **double covalent bond**, two pairs of electrons are shared between two atoms.

Figure 2.9 below shows in (a) that a *molecule* of hydrogen has two atoms of the element hydrogen. This can be represented by either a **molecular formula**,  $H_2$ , which shows how many atoms of each different type of element form a molecule or a **structural formula**, H-H, which shows the single covalent bond involved as one line, representing the pair of shared electrons. The oxygen *molecule* is formed by two *atoms* of the element oxygen as shown in (b). The *molecular formula* of the gas oxygen is  $O_2$ , while the *structural formula* of this molecule is O=O, where the double line shows a double covalent bond indicating two pairs of shared electrons. A molecule of carbon dioxide is shown in (c) and has a *molecular formula* of  $CO_2$ , showing that it is made of one atom of the element carbon and two atoms of the element oxygen. The *structural formula* of carbon dioxide is O=C=O, shows that the molecule has two double covalent bonds.

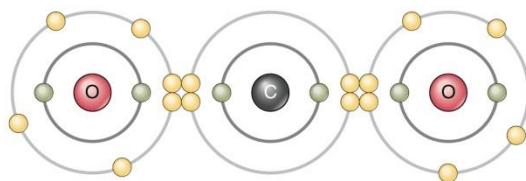
(a) A single covalent bond: hydrogen gas ( $H-H$ ). Two atoms of hydrogen each share their solitary electron in a single covalent bond.



(b) A double covalent bond: oxygen gas ( $O=O$ ). An atom of oxygen has six electrons in its valence shell; thus, two more would make it stable. Two atoms of oxygen achieve stability by sharing two pairs of electrons in a double covalent bond.



(c) Two double covalent bonds: carbon dioxide ( $O=C=O$ ). An atom of carbon has four electrons in its valence shell; thus, four more would make it stable. An atom of carbon and two atoms of oxygen achieve stability by sharing two electron pairs each, in two double covalent bonds.

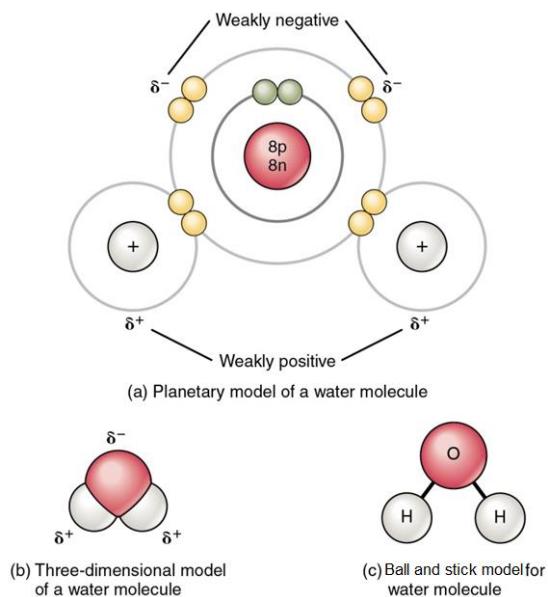


**Figure 2.9** The examples shown above show sharing of electrons between atoms with similar a number of electrons (carbon and oxygen have six and eight, respectively). In these cases, the shared electrons spend about the same time moving around each one of the nuclei of both atoms. This type of covalent bond where electrons are **equally** shared is called a **non-polar covalent bond**. Nonpolar covalent bonds do not have a charge and are electrically neutral.

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A second type of covalent bond occurs when electrons between atoms are shared in an **unequal** manner and is called a **polar covalent bond**. A polar covalent bond is common when either oxygen or nitrogen is sharing electrons with hydrogen. As shown in Figure 2.10 below, water ( $H_2O$ ) is a polar covalent molecule, in which one oxygen atom is covalently bound to two hydrogen atoms. The oxygen atom has 8 protons (and 8 electrons) and the hydrogen atom has just one proton (and one electron). The eight protons in the oxygen atom draw the pair of shared electrons toward oxygen and away from hydrogen. This is because the eight protons in the nucleus of oxygen attract the shared electrons with a stronger force than the single proton in the nucleus of hydrogen. This unequal share of electrons results in the atom that attracts the electrons more, in this example oxygen, having a slightly negative charge density (noted as  $\delta^-$ ) and the other

atom, in this example hydrogen, having a slightly positive charge density (noted as  $\delta^+$ ). Note that we refer to charge density, as opposed to net charge, because neither oxygen nor hydrogen gains or loses electrons.



**Figure 2.10** Water: a polar covalent molecule  
(a) shows two polar covalent bonds in the water molecule. See the explanation in the paragraph above; (b) and (c) show two other ways to represent a water molecule, other than the molecular formula,  $H_2O$ , and the structural formula, H-O-H.

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### Summarizing:

**Covalent bonds** are formed when atoms in a molecule **share electrons**. There are two types of covalent bonds. Molecules with **non-polar covalent bonds equally share electrons** between atoms and have an **even arrangement of charges**. Molecules with **polar covalent bonds share electrons unequally** between atoms and have an **uneven arrangement of charges**.

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a covalent bond?
2. What is the difference between a single covalent bind and a double covalent bond?
3. What is the difference between a molecular formula and a structural formula?
4. What is a non-polar covalent bond?  
What is a polar covalent bond?

### QUIZ

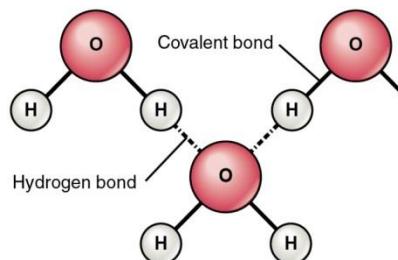
To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## MODULE 3: WATER

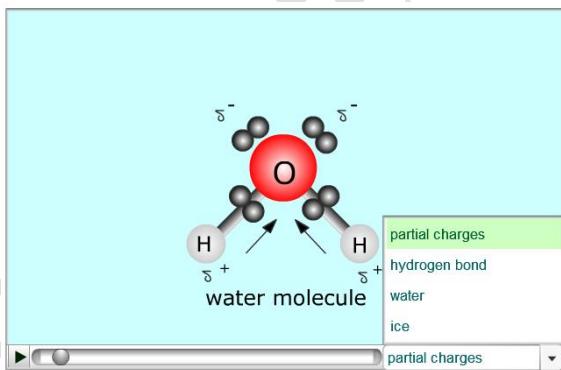
### Learning Objective 15: Define hydrogen bonds and describe how they form

Atoms in the water molecule are held together by polar covalent bonds, as we saw in the previous LO. The unequal share of electrons in the O-H polar covalent bonds results in the oxygen atom having a slightly negative charge density ( $\delta^-$ ) and hydrogen atom having a slightly positive charge ( $\delta^+$ ). The slightly negative  $O^{\delta^-}$  in one water molecule is attracted to the slightly positive  $H^{\delta^+}$  of a neighboring water molecule as shown in figure 2.11 below.

The electrical attraction between  $H^{\delta^+}$  in one molecule and  $O^{\delta^-}$  in another molecule is called a **hydrogen bond**. (Hydrogen bond can also be formed between  $H^{\delta^+}$  in one molecule and N in another molecule). A hydrogen bond is a weaker type of attraction, but many hydrogen bonds add up. Hydrogen bonds explain many of the properties of water. Activity 2.9 below shows how hydrogen bonds form.



**Figure 2.11** Hydrogen bonds are relatively weak. They occur between atoms of *different* molecules and are shown as a dotted lines rather than a solid line. Covalent bonds are stronger, occur between atoms of the *same* molecule and are shown as solid lines  
Art by OpenStax College – CC-BY



**Activity 2.9** Adjust the volume on your computer and click the play button [here](#) to see water molecule polarity and how hydrogen bonds form.

Animation by Art by [Open Learning Initiative CC-BY-NC-SA](#)

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Question** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

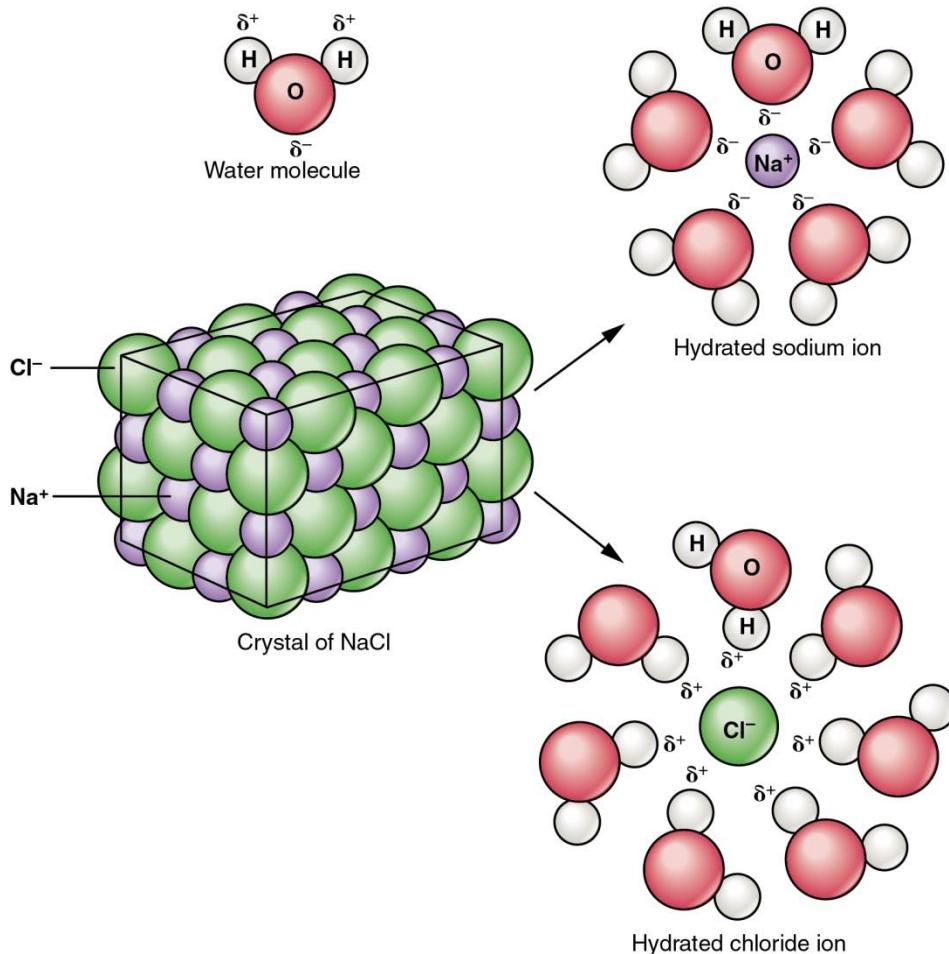
1. What is a hydrogen bond?

**QUIZ**

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

**Learning Objective 16: Describe the behavior of ionic compounds when placed in water**

When an ionic compound, or salt, (e.g. NaCl) is placed in water, its ionic components (e.g.  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) **dissociate** (separate) and water molecules surround each ion. This is shown in figure 2.13 below. The small positive charges on hydrogen atoms in water molecules attract the anions ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ), and the small negative charges on the oxygen atoms attract the cations ( $\text{Na}^+$ ). Thus, because water is a polar covalent liquid, many salts and some polar covalent molecules (e.g. glucose) tend to ‘dissolve’ in water, while non-polar covalent molecules (e.g. fat) do not.



**Figure 2.13** A sodium chloride crystal dissociates not into molecules of NaCl, but into Na<sup>+</sup> cations and Cl<sup>-</sup> anions, each completely surrounded by water molecules.

Art by OpenStax College – CC-BY

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Question** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

- What happens to an ionic compound (salt) when placed in water?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

### Learning Objective 17: Differentiate between hydrophobic and hydrophilic substances

Polar molecules are generally water soluble (they mix with water well), so they are referred to as **hydrophilic**, or “water-loving”. (hydro = water; philia = loving, tendency

toward). Alcohols, salts and some sugars are examples of hydrophilic substances. Nonpolar molecules do not interact with water, and they are not water soluble (they do not mix with water), so they are referred to as being **hydrophobic**, or “water-fearing” (phobos = fear). Oils, fats and waxes are examples of hydrophobic substances. See examples of hydrophobic and hydrophilic substances in figure 2.14 below.



**Figure 2.14** Sucrose (sugar table) molecules are hydrophilic and mix well with water, whereas unsaturated fats (mineral oils) are hydrophobic and do not mix well with water

Art by [Olli Niemitalo - Public Domain](#) (left) and [Victor Blacus - CC BY-SA](#) (right)

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What does hydrophilic mean?
2. What does hydrophobic mean?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

### Learning Objective 18: Define the terms solution, solvent, and solute

A **mixture** is a combination of two or more substances, where each substance maintains its own properties. When we mix sucrose (table sugar) with water, we have a liquid mixture. Water molecules have not changed, and sucrose molecules have not changed either; they are mixed together. Each one maintains its own chemical properties.

A **solution** is a type of *liquid* mixture that consists of a **solvent** that dissolves a substance called a **solute**. A “sugary water” solution consists of water (solvent) that dissolves sucrose, or table sugar (solute). A drop of ink is a solution of water (solvent) and tiny colorful particles (solute). See another example in figure 2.15 below.

Most chemical reactions that happen inside and outside our body occur among compounds dissolved in water. For this reason water is considered the “universal solvent”.



**Figure 2.15** A saline water **solution** can be prepared by dissolving table salt (NaCl) in water. Salt is the **solute** and water the **solvent**.

Photo by [Chris 73 – CC- BY-SA](#)

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a mixture?
2. What is a solution?
3. What is a solvent?
4. What is a solute?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## MODULE 4: ACIDS AND BASES

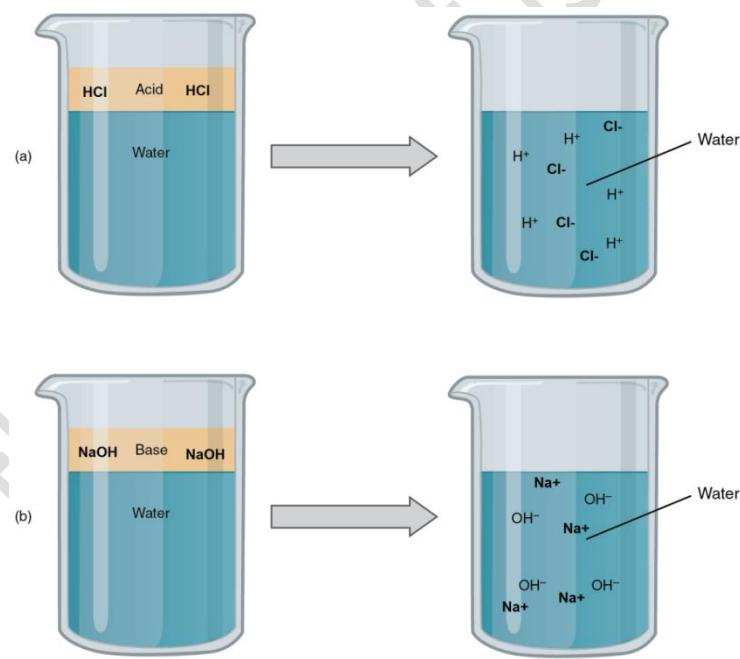
### Learning Objective 19: Define and differentiate the terms acid and base

An **acid** is a substance or compound that releases hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) when in solution. In a strong acid, such as hydrochloric acid (HCl), all hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ), and chloride ions ( $Cl^-$ ) dissociate (separate) when placed in water and these ions are no longer held together by ionic bonding. In a weak acid, such as carbonic acid ( $H_2CO_3$ ), only some of the ions dissociate into hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) and bicarbonate ions ( $HCO_3^-$ ), while others are still held together by ionic bonding.

A **base** is a substance that releases hydroxyl ions ( $OH^-$ ) when in solution. The hydroxyl ions ( $OH^-$ ) released will combine with any hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) in the solution to form water molecules ( $OH^- + H^+ = H_2O$ ), so we can also define a **base** as a substance that takes or accepts hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) already present in the solution.

Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) is a strong base because when placed in water, it dissociates completely into sodium ions ( $Na^+$ ) and hydroxyl ions ( $OH^-$ ), all of which are now released and dissolved in water.

Acids, bases and salts, dissociate (separate) into **electrolytes** (ions) when placed in water. Acids dissociate into  $H^+$  and an anion, bases dissociate into  $OH^-$  and a cation, and salts dissociate into a cation (that is not  $H^+$ ) and an anion (that is not  $OH^-$ ).



**Figure 2.16** (a) In aqueous (watery) solution, an acid dissociates into hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) and anions. Every molecule of a strong acid dissociates, producing a high concentration of  $H^+$ . (b) In aqueous solution, a base dissociates into hydroxyl ions ( $OH^-$ ) and cations. Every molecule of a strong base dissociates, producing a high concentration of  $OH^-$ .

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When an acid and a base react (combine) releasing equal quantities of  $H^+$  ions and  $OH^-$  ions,

**neutralization** results. H<sup>+</sup> ions and OH<sup>-</sup> ions combine (neutralize each other) to regenerate water.

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an acid?
2. What is a base?

#### QUIZ

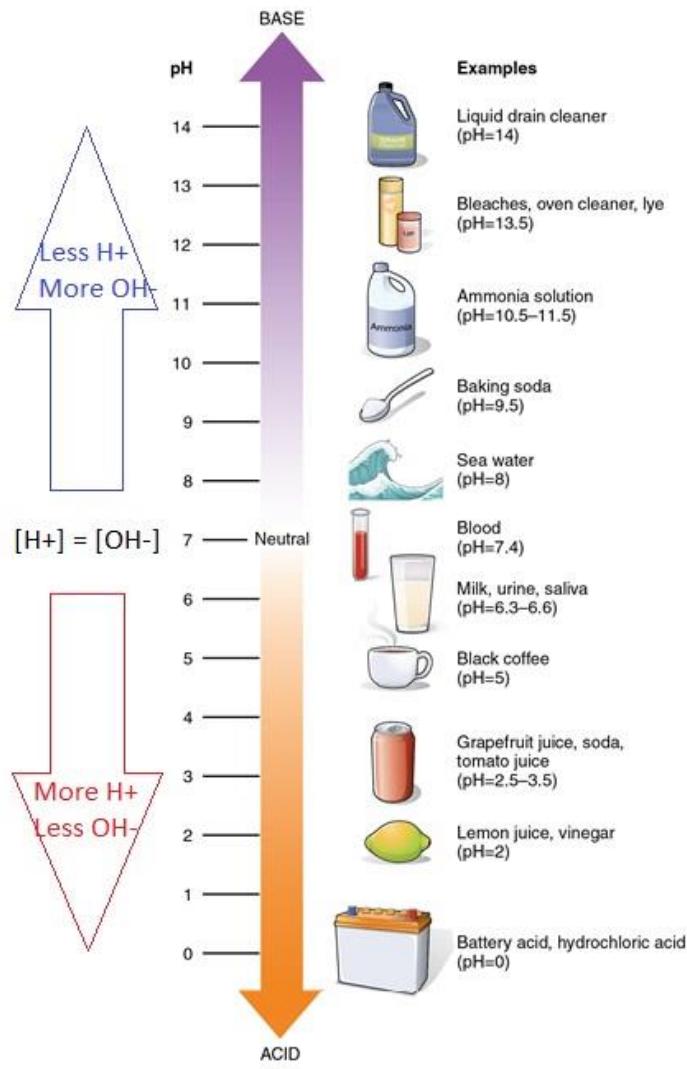
To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

### Learning Objective 20: Define the terms pH, neutral, acidic, and basic (or alkaline)

**pH** is a unit of measurement of the concentration of hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>) and hydroxyl ions (OH<sup>-</sup>) in an aqueous (water) solution. Pure water is said to be **neutral with a pH of 7**, because there are very few H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> ions in equal concentrations (only 1 in 10,000,000 water molecules dissociate to H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup>, which gives a pH of 7). Adding equal amounts of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> to water will also be neutral with a pH of 7, because most of these ions combine to form water molecules and the remaining H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> ion concentration is equal and very low.

When H<sup>+</sup> concentration is higher than OH<sup>-</sup> concentration, the solution is **acidic**, and the pH of the solution is indicated with a number *below* 7. Saliva, coffee, lemon juice, tomato juice, and the acid in a battery are all acidic, so in all of them the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> is higher than the concentration of OH<sup>-</sup>. The more H<sup>+</sup> in a solution the more acidic and the lower is its pH (See Figure 2. 17 below).

When  $H^+$  concentration is lower than  $OH^-$  concentration, the solution is **basic** or **alkaline**, and the pH of the solution is indicated with a number *above* 7. Blood, baking soda, ammonia and bleaches are all basic, so in all of them the concentration of  $H^+$  is lower than the concentration of  $OH^-$ .



**Figure 2.17** pH of various solutions.  
The lower the pH, the more hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) the solutions has.  
The higher the pH, the less hydrogen ions the solution has.

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## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is pH?
2. What is a neutral solution?
3. What is an acidic solution?

4. What is a basic (or alkaline) solution?

**QUIZ**

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

**Learning Objective 21: Define the term buffer, and compare the response of a regular solution with a buffer solution to the addition of acid or base**

Chemical reactions in the body, the food we eat, medication we take, and the effects of some diseases can add or remove hydrogen or hydroxyl ions in or from our body fluids. Levels of these ions, especially H<sup>+</sup> since body cells are constantly producing H<sup>+</sup> as a waste product of cell activity, must be maintained within a normal range (slightly alkaline pH between 7.35 and 7.45.). Then, all cells in our body depend on homeostatic regulation of acid-base balance to maintain pH within optimal living conditions.

There are several homeostatic mechanisms to maintain pH within optimal conditions. It can be regulated by the internal availability of substances (chemicals), by adjusting breathing rate, and by eliminating chemicals in urine. **Chemical buffers** in the body are substances that can absorb extra hydrogen ions preventing a change in pH. For example, during exercise muscle cells can produce excess lactic acid, which increases hydrogen ions (acids release hydrogen ions). These hydrogen ions tend to make our body fluids more acidic, but chemical buffers in the body absorb them preventing a pH change. See below a table comparing what happens when acid or base are added to a plain solution (no buffer), or to a solution that absorbs hydrogen ions or hydroxyl ions (buffer).

**Table 2.2** Comparison between a regular solution without buffering properties and a buffer solution with buffering properties

	Regular solution ( <i>without buffering properties</i> )	Buffer solution ( <i>with buffering properties</i> )
<b>When acid is added, it releases hydrogen ions and ...</b>	the pH drops and the solution becomes more acidic	the pH does not drop
<b>When base is added, it absorbs hydrogen ions (or releases hydroxyl ions) and ...</b>	the pH rises and the solution become more basic (alkaline)	the pH does not drop

Bicarbonate, phosphates, and proteins work as a chemical buffer in our body fluids. They absorb extra hydrogen ions or extra hydroxyl ions released from the things we make or eat.

### **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Question** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a buffer?
2. What happens to the pH of a plain solution when acid is added to it?
3. What happens to the pH of a buffer solution when acid is added to it?

#### **QUIZ**

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## **UNIT 3 – MOLECULAR LEVEL: BIOMOLECULES, THE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS ASSOCIATED WITH LIVING ORGANISMS**

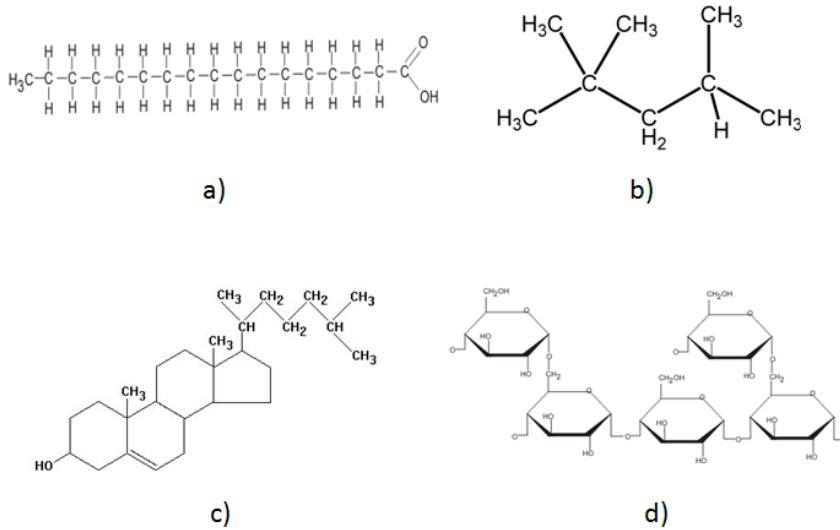
### **MODULE 1: ORGANIC COMPOUNDS**

**Learning Objective 22: Define the terms organic compound and macromolecule, and list the four groups of organic compounds found in living matter**

Animal tissues, plant tissues, bacteria, and fungi contain organic molecules; horns and nails, fallen leaves, eggs, fruits and vegetables contain organic compounds; wood, milk, paper, petroleum and gasoline contain organic compounds. In summary, all living matter, parts or products of living matter and remains of living matter contain organic compounds. Organic molecules associated with living organisms are also called **biomolecules**.

**Organic compounds** are molecules that contain carbon atoms covalently bonded to hydrogen atoms (C-H bonds). Many organic compounds are formed from chains of covalently-linked carbon atoms with hydrogen atoms attached to the chain (a hydrocarbon backbone). This means that all organic compounds have in common the presence of carbon atoms *and* hydrogen atoms. In addition, different organic compounds may contain oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, and other elements. Carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ )

does not have hydrogen; then, it is not an organic compound. Water ( $H_2O$ ) has no carbon; then, it is not an organic compound. Sodium chloride has neither carbon nor hydrogen; then, it is not an organic compound. Generally, gases, and mineral salts (inorganic substances found in soil, or bodies of water or watercourses) are not organic.



**Figure 3.1** Organic molecules have a diversity of shapes and sizes due to carbon's ability to form four covalent bonds. Carbon can form long chains (such as the fatty acid seen in a); branched chains (as seen in b); rings (such as the cholesterol seen in c); or branched chains of rings (as the seen in d).

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Most organic compounds making up our cells and body belong to one of four classes: **carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids**. These molecules are incorporated into our bodies with the food we eat. In general, molecules in these four classes are very large, and we often call large molecules **macromolecules** (macro- = “very large”, or “on a large scale”).



**Figure 3.2** Carbohydrate-rich food

Art by [©HealthClub](#)



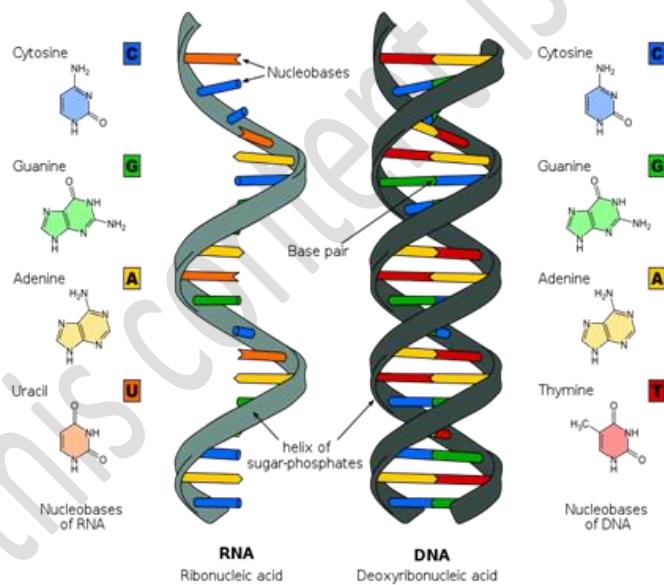
**Figure 3.3 Protein-rich food**

Art by ©[Gooddietplan](#)



**Figure 3.4 Lipid-rich food**

Art by [NationalCancerInstitute – Public Domain](#)



**Figure 3.5 Two types of nucleic acids,**

**RNA and DNA**

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## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Question** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a biomolecule?
2. What is an organic compound?
3. What is a macromolecule?
4. What are the four classes of biomolecules found in living things?

**QUIZ**

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

### Learning Objective 23: Define functional groups and give examples

Number of carbons that form the backbone of an organic compound, and shape of it (long chain, branched chain, ring) are not the only features that determine organic compounds properties. Groups of atoms of other elements associated to the carbon backbone give unique properties to the millions of different types of organic molecules. A specific group of atoms linked by strong covalent bonds is called a **functional group**. There are many important functional groups in human physiology. Some of them are hydroxyl, carboxyl, amino, methyl and phosphate groups.

**Table 3.1** Functional groups important in human physiology

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Functional group	Molecular Formula	Importance
Hydroxyl	-OH	Hydroxyl groups are polar. They are especially common in carbohydrates
Carboxyl (Acid)	-COOH	Carboxyl groups are polar. They are found within fatty acids, amino acids (building blocks of proteins), and many other organic acids.
Amino	-NH <sub>2</sub>	Amino groups are polar. They are found within amino acids (building blocks of proteins).
Methyl	-CH <sub>3</sub>	Methyl groups are not polar. They are found in many organic compounds.
Phosphate	-PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Phosphate groups are polar. They are found within phospholipids (building blocks of cell membranes), nucleotides (building blocks of nucleic acids), and many proteins.

## **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Question** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a functional group?

### **QUIZ**

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## **MODULE 2: CHEMICAL REACTIONS**

**Learning Objective 24: Differentiate between substrate and product, and define chemical equation**

Chemical reactions begin with one or more substances that enter into the reaction. The substances in our cells and body tissues that enter into the reaction are called **substrates**. The one or more substances produced by a chemical reaction are called **products**.

Chemical reactions are represented by **chemical equations** by placing the substrate(s) on the left and the product(s) on the right. Substrate(s) and product(s) are separated by an arrow ( $\rightarrow$ ) which indicates the direction and type of the reaction. For example, lactose, the sugar found in milk, is broken down by our digestive system into two smaller sugars, glucose and galactose. In this reaction, lactose is the substrate, and glucose and galactose are the products. The chemical equation for this reaction is:

Lactose  $\rightarrow$  Glucose + Galactose

## **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is the difference between a substrate and a product?
2. What is a chemical equation?

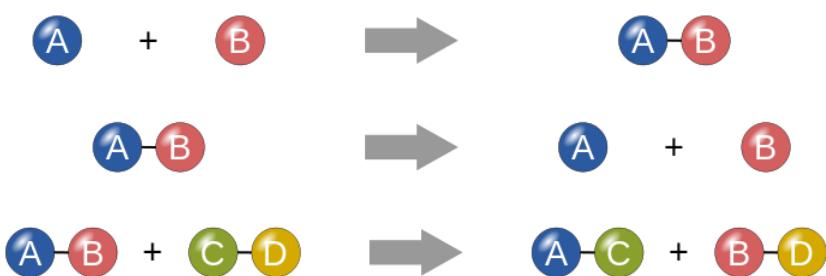
## QUIZ

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### Learning Objective 25: Define metabolism, synthesis (anabolic), decomposition (catabolic), and exchange reactions.

**Metabolism** refers to the sum of all chemical reactions happening in a living organism. There are three main types of chemical reactions important in human physiology, synthesis (anabolic), decomposition (catabolic) and exchange.

1. In a **synthesis reaction** (syn- = together; -thesis = “put, place, set”), two or more substrates molecules covalently bond to form a larger product molecule. Synthesis reactions **require** energy to form the bond(s). A synthesis reaction is often symbolized as  $A + B \rightarrow AB$ , where A and B are the substrates, and AB is the product. Synthesis reactions can also be called **anabolic** or constructive activities in a cell.
2. In a **decomposition reaction** (de- off, away= -composition = “putting together, arranging”), covalent bonds between components of a larger substrate molecule are broken down to form smaller product molecules. Decomposition reactions **release** energy when covalent bonds in the substrate are broken down. A decomposition reaction is often symbolized as  $AB \rightarrow A + B$ ; where AB is the substrate, and A and B are the products. Different types of decomposition reactions may also be referred to as digestion, hydrolysis, breakdown, and degradation reactions. Decomposition reactions are the basis of all **catabolic**, or breakdown activities in a cell.
3. In an **exchange reaction**, covalent bonds are both broken down and then reformed in a way that the components of the substrates are rearranged to make different products. An exchange reaction is often symbolized as  $AB + CD \rightarrow AC + BD$ . In this exchange reaction, the covalent bonds between A and B, and between C and D were broken; and new covalent bonds between A and C, and B and D were formed.



**Figure 3.7**  
 Representation of three types of chemical reactions.  
 From top to bottom:  
 synthesis,  
 decomposition, and  
 exchange.

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### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a synthesis reaction?
2. How can a synthesis reaction be represented by using letters?
3. What is an anabolic reaction?
4. What is a decomposition reaction?
5. How can a decomposition reaction be represented by using letters?
6. What is a catabolic reaction?
7. What is an exchange reaction?
8. How can an exchange reaction be represented by using letters?
9. What is a metabolism reaction?
10. What is metabolism?

#### QUIZ

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### Learning Objective 26: Differentiate between reversible reactions and irreversible reactions

Some metabolic reactions are called **irreversible reactions**. This means that the product(s) cannot be changed or “reversed” back into substrates. These reactions are represented with a single arrow as in  $A+B \rightarrow C$ .

For example:



Note: This is a type of catabolic reaction (the larger glucose molecule is broken down to smaller carbon dioxide molecules) related to cellular energy production. In animal cells, such as humans, this is an irreversible reaction.

Other metabolic reactions are called **reversible reactions**. This means that the reaction can proceed from substrates to product(s) or from product(s) back to substrates. The product(s) can be changed back into or “reversed” into substrates. They are represented with a double arrow as in A+B $\rightleftharpoons$ C+D.

For example:



Note: When cells need energy, glycogen (a larger molecule used as an energy store in some cells) can be catabolized to smaller glucose molecules, which can then be further catabolized to provide energy for cell functions. When cells do not need as much energy, or when glucose levels are very high, glycogen is synthesized from the smaller glucose molecules. For example, muscle cells synthesize glycogen when resting and catabolize glycogen when contracting. Which way this reversible reaction proceeds depends on body needs.

### **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a reversible reaction?
2. What is an irreversible reaction?

#### **QUIZ**

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### **Learning Objective 27: Explain dehydration synthesis and hydrolysis reactions**

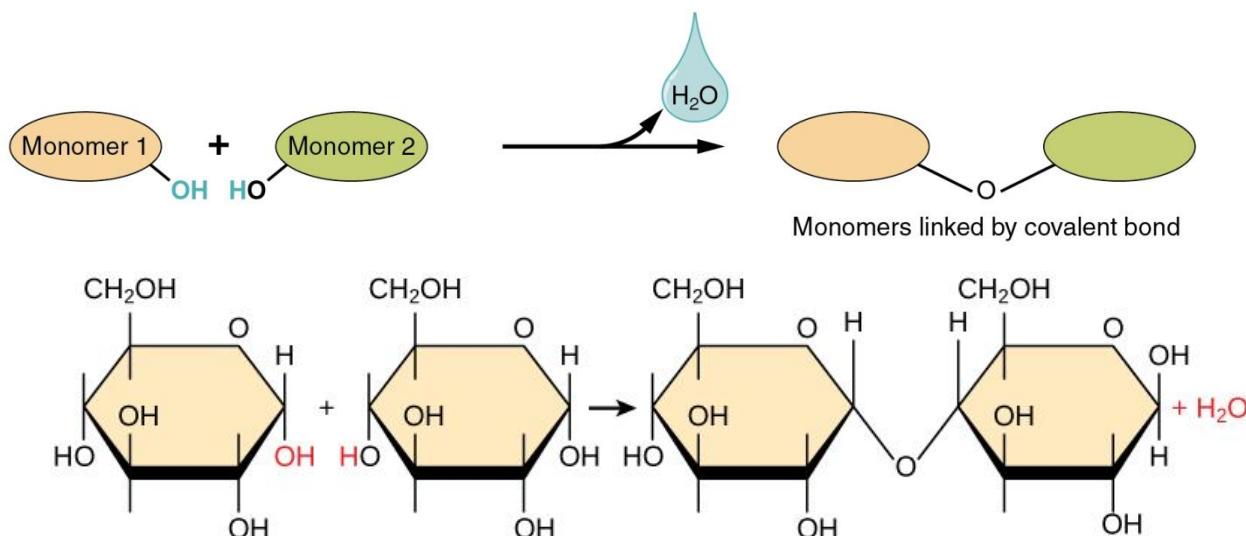
In the body, synthesis reactions (smaller molecules to larger molecule, requires energy) and decomposition reactions (larger molecule to smaller molecules, releases energy) are often associated with the formation and breakdown of water molecules, respectively. A

**dehydration synthesis** reaction is a type of synthesis reaction that **makes water** as a byproduct. A **hydrolysis** reaction is a type of decomposition reaction that **uses water**.

In the **dehydration synthesis** (de- = “off, remove”; hydrate = “water”) shown in figure 3.8, two monomers are covalently bonded in a reaction in which one gives up a hydroxyl ion ( $\text{-OH}^-$ ) and the other a hydrogen ion ( $\text{-H}^+$ ). Monomer 1 and monomer 2 are the substrates on the left, and the “monomers linked by a covalent bond” is the product on the right. The product shown here is also called a dimer (di- = two, mer = part).  $\text{OH}^-$  and  $\text{H}^+$  combine to *form a molecule of water*, which is released as a byproduct. This can be confusing because water is made during dehydration synthesis. The larger product has been dehydrated (lost the water).

(a) Dehydration synthesis

Monomers are joined by removal of OH from one monomer and removal of H from the other at the site of bond formation.



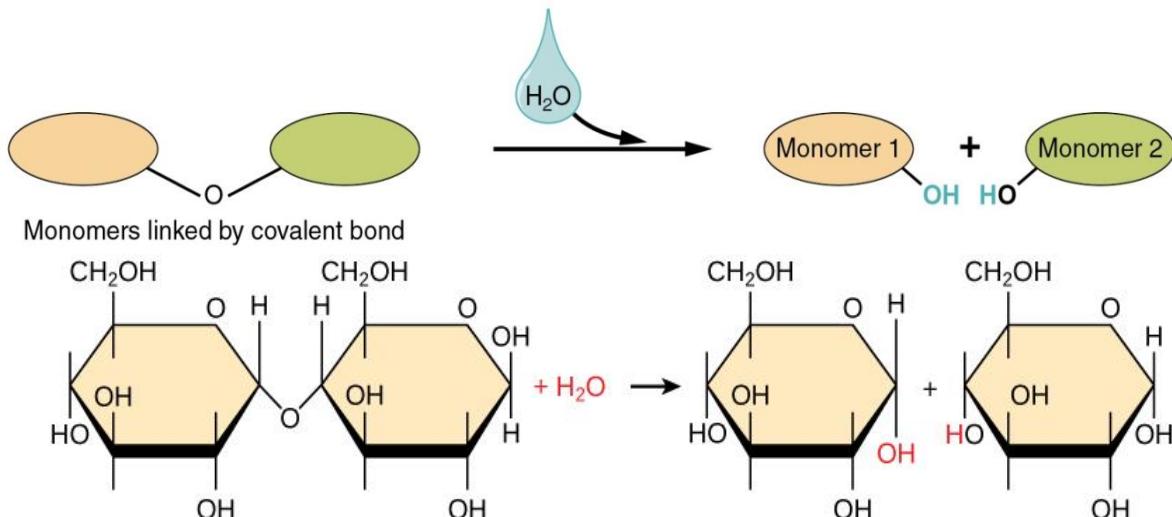
**Figure 3.8** Example of dehydration synthesis: two glucose molecules (substrates on the left of the arrow) form a covalent bond to form a maltose molecule (product on the right of the arrow). The  $\text{OH}^-$  and  $\text{H}^+$  shown in red combine with each other to form  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (shown in red too)

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In the **hydrolysis reaction** shown in figure 3.9, (hydro- = “water”; -lysis = “breaking-down, a loosening, a dissolution”) the covalent bond between two monomers is split by the addition of a hydrogen ion ( $\text{H}^+$ ) to one and a hydroxyl ion ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) to the other. These two ions come from splitting a water molecule,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , into  $\text{H}^+$  and  $\text{OH}^-$ . The dimer (monomers linked by a covalent bond on the left) is the substrate, and monomer 1 and monomer 2 on the right are the products.

(b) Hydrolysis

Monomers are released by the addition of a water molecule, adding OH to one monomer and H to the other.



**Figure 3.9** Example of decomposition reaction: a covalent bond (-O-) in a maltose molecule (substrate on the left of the arrow) is broken to form two glucose molecules (the products on the right of the arrow). The H<sub>2</sub>O is used to add OH<sup>-</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> (shown in red) to the two glucose molecules

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### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a dehydration synthesis reaction?
2. What is a hydrolysis reaction?

### QUIZ

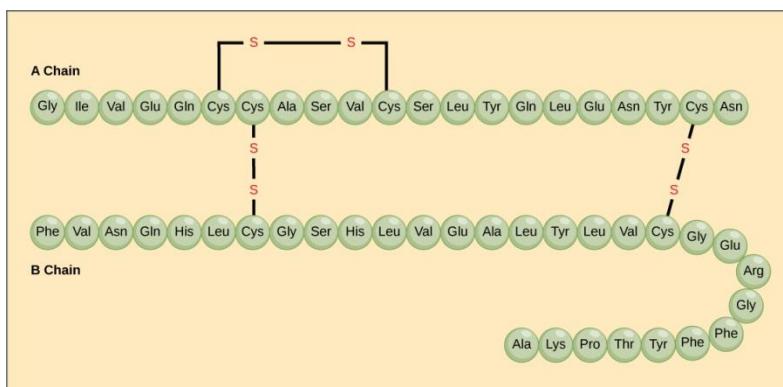
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### Learning Objective 28: Explain the relationship between monomers and polymers

Large molecules composed of hundreds or thousands of atoms are called macromolecules. Many macromolecules are composed of repetitive units of the same building block, similar to a pearl necklace that is composed of many pearls. **Polymers**

(poly- = “many”; meros = “part”) are long chain, large organic molecules (macromolecules) assembled from many covalently bonded smaller molecules called **monomers**. Polymers consist of many repeating monomer units in long chains, sometimes with branching or cross-linking between the chains.

Three of the four classes of organic molecules previously identified, i.e. carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids are often polymers made of smaller monomer subunits (lipids are not). For example, proteins are polymers made of many covalently bonded smaller molecules, monomers, called amino acids. Each of these classes is considered in more detail below.



**Figure 3.6** Two-dimensional view of the protein insulin. Insulin is a polymer made of covalently linked monomers called amino acids (shown as green balls).

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## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a polymer?
2. What is a monomer?

### QUIZ

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## MODULE 3: CARBOHYDRATES

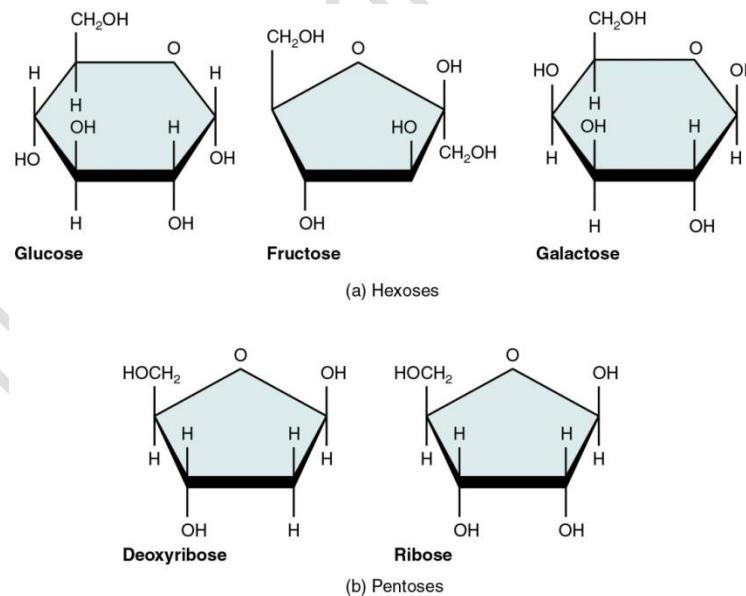
**Learning Objective 29:** Describe the general molecular structure of carbohydrates, and identify their monomers and polymers; list the three subtypes of carbohydrates, and describe their structure and function

**Carbohydrates** (carbo- = “carbon”; hydrate = “water”) contain the elements carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, and only those elements with a few exceptions.

The ratio of carbon to hydrogen to oxygen in carbohydrate molecules is 1:2:1. The component carbon (C, carbo-) and the component water (H<sub>2</sub>O, -hydrate) give the name to this group of organic molecules.

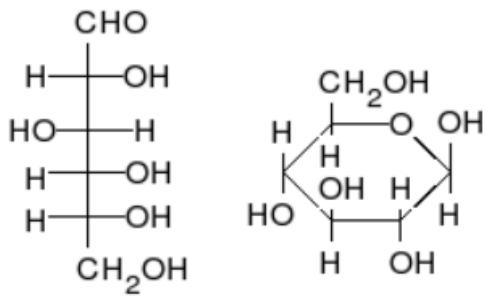
Carbohydrates are classified into three subtypes: **monosaccharides**, (mono- = “one”, “alone”; saccharide = “sugar, sweet”) **disaccharides** (di = “two”), and **polysaccharides**. (poly- = “many, much”). Monosaccharides and disaccharides are also called *simple* carbohydrates, and are generally referred to as sugars. Simple carbohydrates are small polar molecules, containing several –OH functional groups, which makes them *hydrophilic* (they dissolve well in water). Polysaccharides, also called *complex* carbohydrates, are large non polar molecules, and they are not hydrophilic.

The figure below shows the most common **monosaccharides**: glucose, fructose and galactose (six-carbon monosaccharides), and ribose and deoxyribose (five-carbon monosaccharides). Note that they are all named using the suffix **-ose**, which means sugar. Carbohydrates are often named “somethingose”.



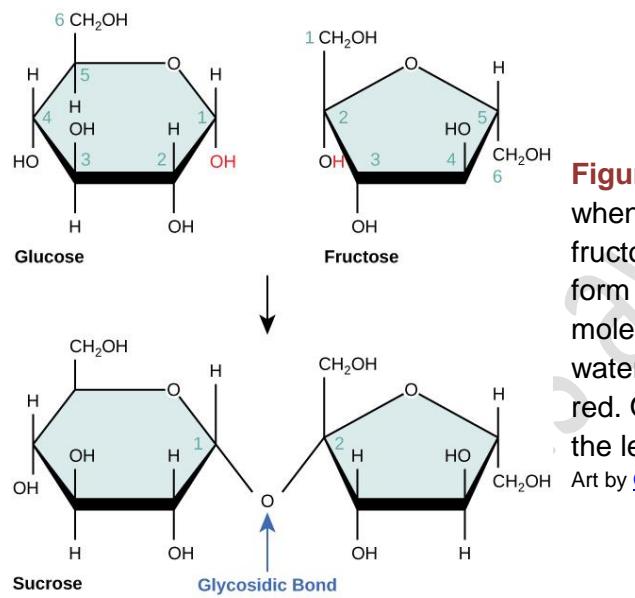
**Figure 3.10** These monosaccharides respect the ration 1:2:1 mentioned above: glucose ( $C_6H_{12}O_6$ ), fructose ( $C_6H_{12}O_6$ ), galactose ( $C_6H_{12}O_6$ ), ribose ( $C_5H_{10}O_5$ ), deoxyribose ( $C_5H_{10}O_4$ , this one is missing an oxygen). Note that carbohydrates have lots of hydroxyl functional groups (-OH)

Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)



**Figure 3.11** There are different ways to represent a glucose molecule ( $C_6H_{12}O_6$ ). Two of the most common are straight-chain form (left) and ring form (right). Carbon atoms in the vertices are not shown.

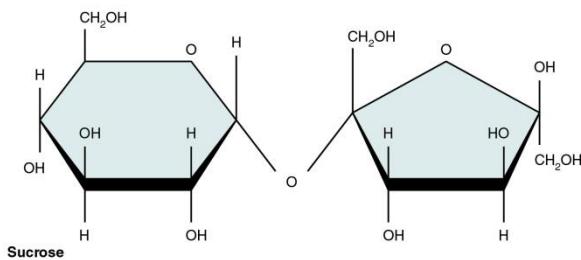
**Disaccharides** form by a covalent bond between two monosaccharides. This type of bond between two monosaccharides is called a **glycosidic** bond, and energy is needed to form it.



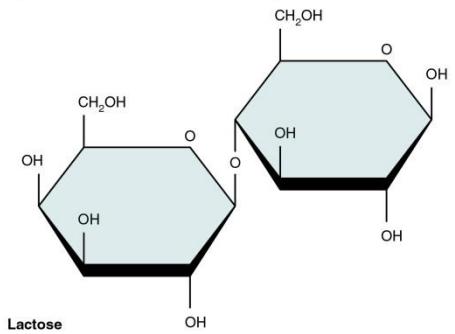
**Figure 3.12** The disaccharide sucrose is formed when a monomer of glucose and a monomer of fructose join in a dehydration synthesis reaction to form a glycosidic bond. In the process, a water molecule is lost (not shown in the figure). The lost water molecule is formed by -OH and -H shown in red. Oxygen forms covalent bonds with glucose on the left, and fructose on the right.

Art by OpenStax College – CC-BY

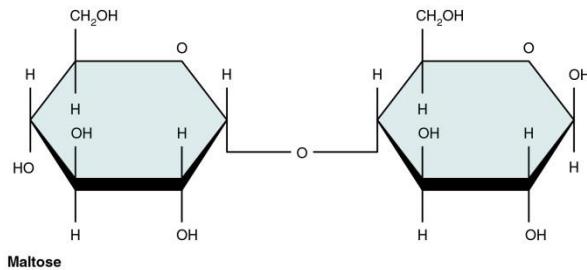
(a) The monosaccharides glucose and fructose bond to form sucrose



(b) The monosaccharides galactose and glucose bond to form lactose.



(c) Two glucose monosaccharides bond to form maltose.



Maltose

**Figure 3.13** The most common disaccharides: sucrose ( $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ ), lactose ( $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ ), and maltose ( $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ )

Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

**Polysaccharides** are macromolecules composed of repetitive units of the same building block, monosaccharides, similarly to a pearl necklace is composed of many pearls. We can also define polysaccharides as **polymers** assembled from many smaller covalently bonded **monomers**. As shown in the Figures and Table below, three important polysaccharides in living organisms are glycogen, starch and cellulose. Glycogen and starch are used as energy stores in animal and plant cells respectively, while cellulose provides structural support in plants and fiber to our diets.

a) sweet potato



Starch

b) liver



Glycogen

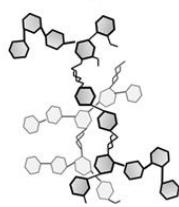
c) fern

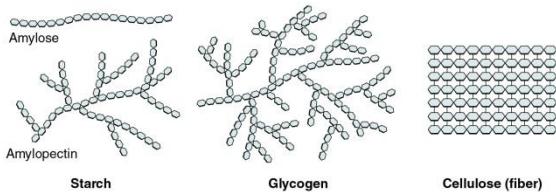


Cellulose

**Figure 3.14** Amylose and amylopectin found in starch (a) are both polymers made of thousands of glucose molecules (the tiny clear blue hexagons in the figure) linked by covalent bonds. Glycogen (b) and cellulose (c) are also made of thousands of glucose molecules, but organized in a branched and straight pattern, respectively.

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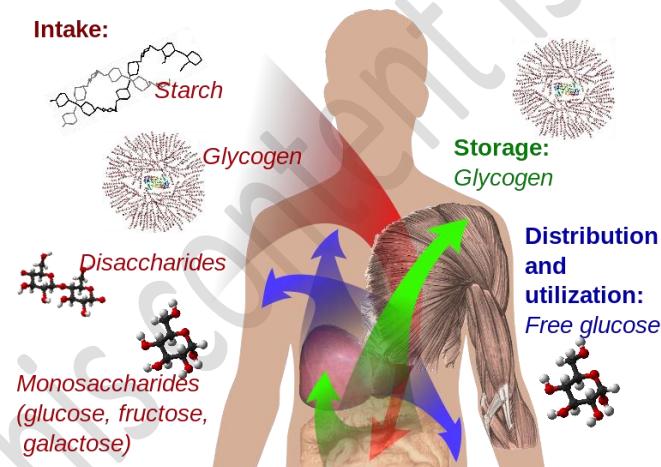




**Table 3.2** Summary of types of carbohydrates, number of sugar (monosaccharide) subunits, functions, examples, and sources

Table derivative of [University of Maryland University College CC-BY-NC](#)

Type of Carbohydrates	No. of Sugar Subunits	Function	Examples and Sources
<b>Monosaccharide (simple sugars)</b>	1	Provide energy for cells	<b>Glucose:</b> many plants and fruits, honey, sport drinks; <b>Fructose:</b> fruit, honey, sweetener in many processed foods (high-fructose corn syrup); <b>Galactose:</b> dairy products (milk, butter, cheese, yogurt), beet; <b>Ribose and Deoxyribose:</b> nucleic acids
<b>Disaccharide</b>	2	Provide energy for cells	<b>Lactose:</b> dairy products ; <b>Sucrose:</b> "table sugar," sugarcane, sugar beets, candy; <b>Maltose:</b> germinating seeds, beer
<b>Polysaccharide (complex carbohydrates)</b>	many to thousands	Store energy Structural support	<b>Starch:</b> plants, e.g. potatoes, corn, rice; <b>Glycogen:</b> muscles and liver <b>Cellulose:</b> plants



**Figure 3.15** How we use carbohydrates: we get carbohydrates in the diet as starch, glycogen, lactose, sucrose, maltose, glucose, fructose and galactose. Our blood carries glucose to most cells in our body, where it is used as a source of energy. Our body stores extra glucose as glycogen in muscles and liver.

Art by Mikael Häggström - [Public Domain](#)

See a quick carbohydrates summary online [here](#).

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a carbohydrate?
2. What elements are carbohydrates made of?
3. What suffix is used to name carbohydrates?
4. What is the difference in structure among monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides?
5. List all the examples of monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides described in the module
6. How does the body use monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides (what is their function)?

### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## MODULE 4: LIPIDS

**Learning Objective 30: Describe the general chemical structure of lipids, list three subtypes of lipids important in human functioning, and describe their structure and function**

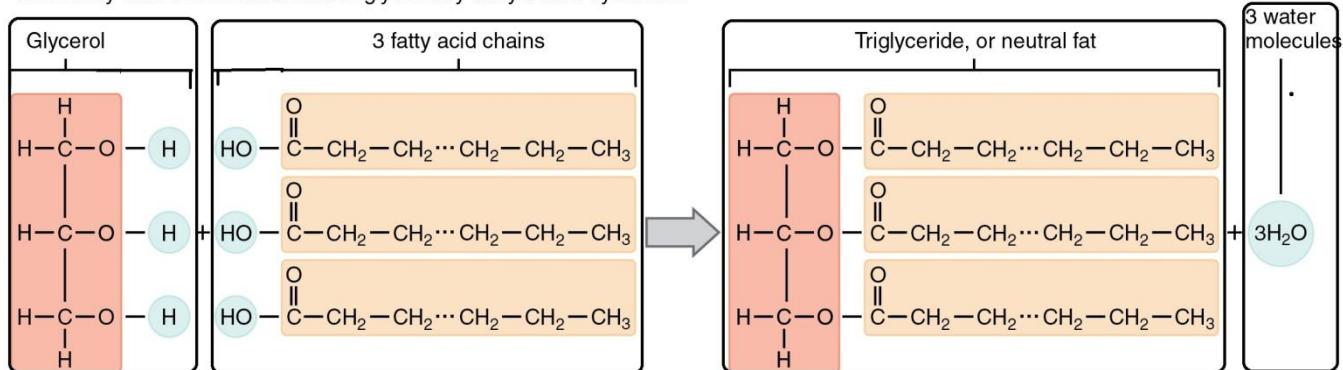
**Lipids** contain the same elements as carbohydrates: carbon, hydrogen and oxygen (C, H, and O). However, lipids are mainly made of hydrocarbon chains (or rings) and contain fewer polar hydroxyl groups (-OH). This makes most lipids nonpolar *hydrophobic* molecules (they do not dissolve well in water).

Lipids include a diverse group of organic compounds. We describe only three of them here: **triglycerides**, **phospholipids**, and **steroids**.

**Triglycerides** include fats and oils. They are the most common type of lipids found in our body fat tissues and in our diet and serve mostly as an energy store.

Triglycerides consist of one *glycerol molecule* and three *fatty acid molecules* (see Figure 3.16 below). Glycerol is an organic compound with three carbons, hydrogens, and hydroxyl (-OH) groups. Fatty acids are a long chain of carbons with hydrogens attached to them. A carboxyl (acid) (-COOH) group is attached to one end of the chain. The most common number of carbons in the fatty acid chain ranges from 12 to 18.

Three fatty acid chains are bound to glycerol by dehydration synthesis.



**Figure 3.16** During triglyceride synthesis, glycerol gives up three hydrogen atoms, and the carboxyl groups on the fatty acids each give up a hydroxyl (-OH) group forming three water molecules. This is a *dehydration synthesis* reaction

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There are two classes of fatty acids: saturated and unsaturated (see Figure 3.17 below).

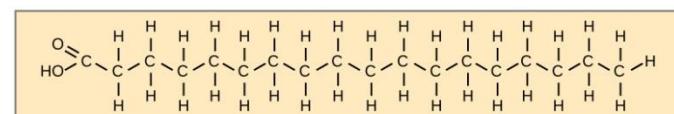
**Saturated fatty acids** have all neighboring carbons in the hydrocarbon chain linked by single covalent bonds. This maximizes the number of hydrogen atoms attached to the carbon skeleton. Then, we say that carbons in the chain are *saturated* with hydrogens.

**Unsaturated fatty acids** have at least two neighboring carbons in the hydrocarbon chain linked by double covalent bonds. This does *not* allow all carbons in the chain to maximize the number of hydrogen atoms attached to the carbon skeleton. Then, carbons in the chain are *unsaturated* (or not saturated) with hydrogens.

Most triglycerides made of unsaturated fatty acids are liquid and are called oils. Triglycerides made of saturated fatty acids are semisolid at room temperature (e.g. fat in butter and meat).

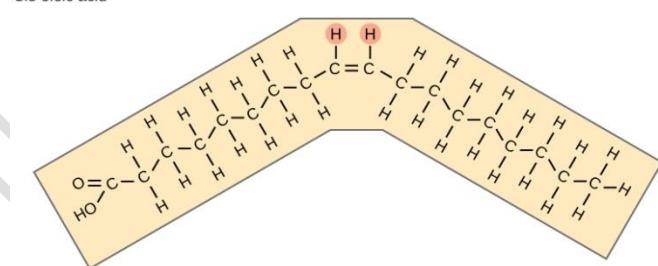
Saturated fatty acid

Stearic acid

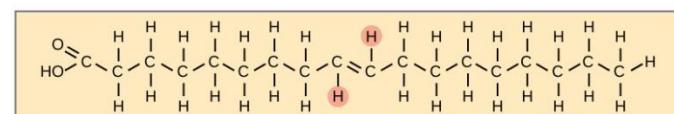


Unsaturated fatty acids

Cis oleic acid



Trans oleic acid



**Figure 3.17** Saturated fatty acids have hydrocarbon chains connected by single bonds only. Unsaturated fatty acids have one or more double bonds. Each double bond may be in a *cis* or *trans* configuration. In the *cis* configuration, both hydrogens are on the same side of the hydrocarbon chain. In the *trans* configuration, the hydrogens are on opposite sides. A *cis* double bond causes a kink in the chain.

Art By [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

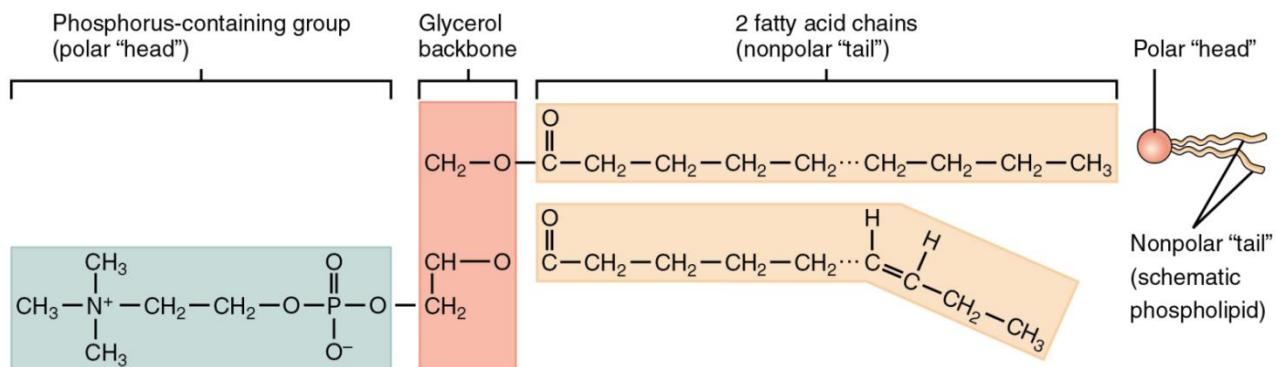
**Phospholipids** are the main components of cell membranes (the layer that separates inner content in a cell from the outside), and membranes inside cells (the enclosing layers that make up internal cell compartments).

Phospholipids are composed of fatty acid chains attached to a glycerol backbone (see Figure 3.18 below). However, instead of three fatty acids attached as in triglycerides, they have two fatty acid chains. The third carbon of the glycerol backbone is bound to a modified phosphorous-containing group. The two fatty acid chains are nonpolar, so they don't interact with water, they are *hydrophobic*. The phosphorous-containing group is polar, so it does interact well with water, it is *hydrophilic*. Phospholipids are *amphipathic* molecules (amphi- = "both, both sides"; pathos = "suffering, feeling"), meaning they have a hydrophobic side and a hydrophilic side.

#### (a) Phospholipids

Two fatty acid chains and a phosphorus-containing group are attached to the glycerol backbone.

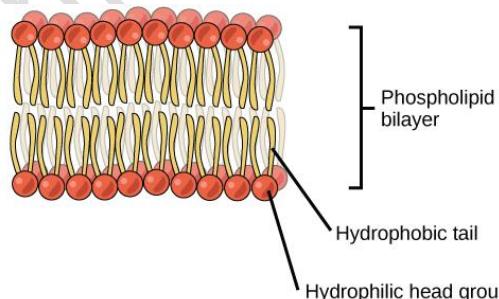
Example: Phosphatidylcholine



**Figure 3.18** Phospholipids are composed of glycerol, two nonpolar hydrophobic "tails", and a polar hydrophilic "head". Phospholipids are *amphipathic* molecules.

Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

When phospholipid molecules are in an aqueous (water) solution they often form a bilayer (two layers) with the hydrophilic head groups of the phospholipids facing the aqueous solution and the hydrophobic tails in the middle of the bilayer (see Figure 3.19 below). Similarly, a phospholipid bilayer separates the internal and external aqueous environment of cells.

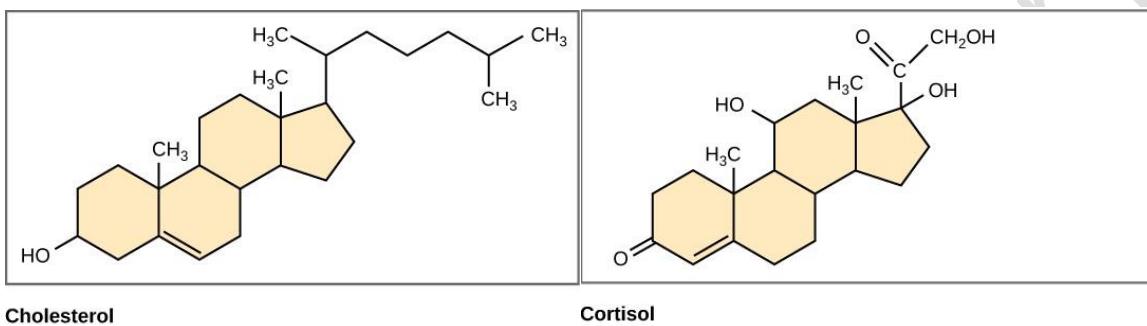


**Figure 3.19** In a cell membrane (the surface surrounding a cell), a bilayer of phospholipids forms the basic structure. The hydrophobic fatty acid tails of phospholipids face each other, away from the water, whereas the hydrophilic phosphate groups face the outside surfaces, which are aqueous.

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**Steroids** are small lipids where the hydrocarbon backbone has been linked into four rings with various functional groups attached to the rings. Steroids, like other lipids, are nonpolar and *hydrophobic*. See steroids structure in figure 3.20 below.

The most important steroid to human structure and function is cholesterol. Cholesterol helps provide structure to cell membranes and is a component of bile, which helps in the digestion of dietary fats. Cholesterol is also a substrate in the formation of many hormones, signaling molecules that the body releases to regulate processes at distant sites. As shown in Figure 3.20, cortisol is one of these hormones and regulates the stress response.



**Figure 3.20** Structure of steroids. Cholesterol and cortisol share the same four-ring structure typical of steroids. Art By [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

**Table 3.3** Summary lipids structure, functions, and examples

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Type of Lipid	Structure	General Function	Examples
<b>Triglyceride (fats and oils)</b>	Glycerol plus 3 Fatty acids	Stores energy for use at a later time.	Saturated fats, and unsaturated oils
<b>Phospholipid</b>	2 Fatty acids plus glycerol plus a phosphate group	Forms the cell membrane (layer that separates inner content in a cell from the outside), and membranes inside cells (the enclosing layers that make internal cell compartments)	Lipid bilayer membrane
<b>Steroid</b>	Small carbon ring molecules	Structural support of cell membranes; substrate for steroid hormone production;	Cholesterol
		steroid hormones regulate many developmental, and metabolic processes.	Cortisol, estrogen, testosterone

See a quick lipids summary online [here](#).

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a lipid?
2. What elements are lipids made of?
3. What are the three classes of lipids described in the module?
4. What is the difference in structure among triglycerides, phospholipids, and steroids (include a description of each one of them in your answer)?
5. What is the difference between saturated fatty acids and unsaturated fatty acids?
6. What does it mean that phospholipids are *amphipathic* molecules (include a description of a phospholipid molecule in your answer)?
7. What are the functions of the different lipids?

### QUIZ

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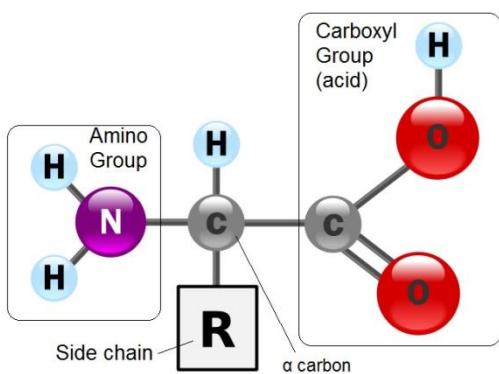
## MODULE 5: PROTEINS

**Learning Objective 31:** Describe the general chemical structure of proteins and identify monomers and polymers; and list and explain functions proteins perform

**Proteins** contain the same elements as carbohydrates and lipids: carbon, hydrogen and oxygen; plus nitrogen (C, H, O, and N). Proteins are usually much larger than polysaccharides and triglycerides. **Proteins** are macromolecules composed of repetitive units of the same building block, **amino acids**, similar to a pearl necklace that is composed of many pearls. We can also define proteins as **polymers** assembled from many smaller covalently bonded **monomers**. The type of covalent bond linking neighboring amino acids is called **peptide bond**, as shown below in figure 2.23.

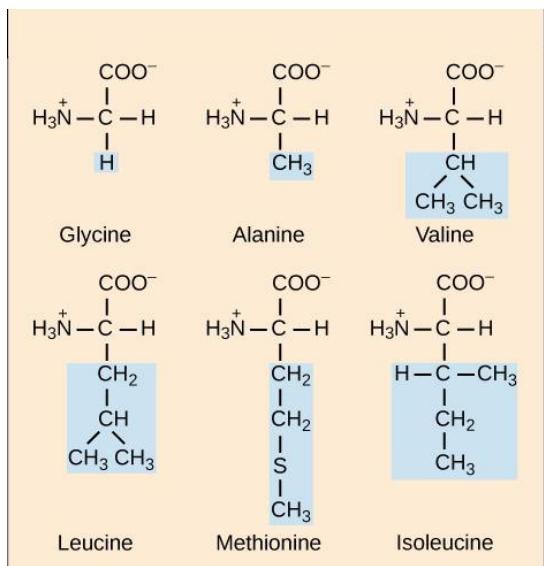
Proteins carry out most of the jobs in a cell and serve the most diverse range of functions of all the organic macromolecules in our cells and body. Different proteins form parts of cell and tissue structures; regulate physiological processes; contract to move cellular or body parts; or protect cells and the whole body; they may serve in transporting gases or other substances, or as important part of membranes; or they may be working as enzymes, which perform all chemical reactions happening in our cells and body.

Protein structures, like their functions, vary greatly. However, they are all made of combinations of twenty different amino acids available in nature, and all amino acids share the same basic structure as shown in figure 2.21 below.



**Figure 2.21** All amino acids have a central  $\alpha$  carbon covalently bound to a hydrogen, an **amino functional group** ( $-NH_2$ ), a **carboxyl (acid) functional group** ( $-COOH$ ), and a **side chain R**. R represents any of the twenty different functional groups found in amino acids.

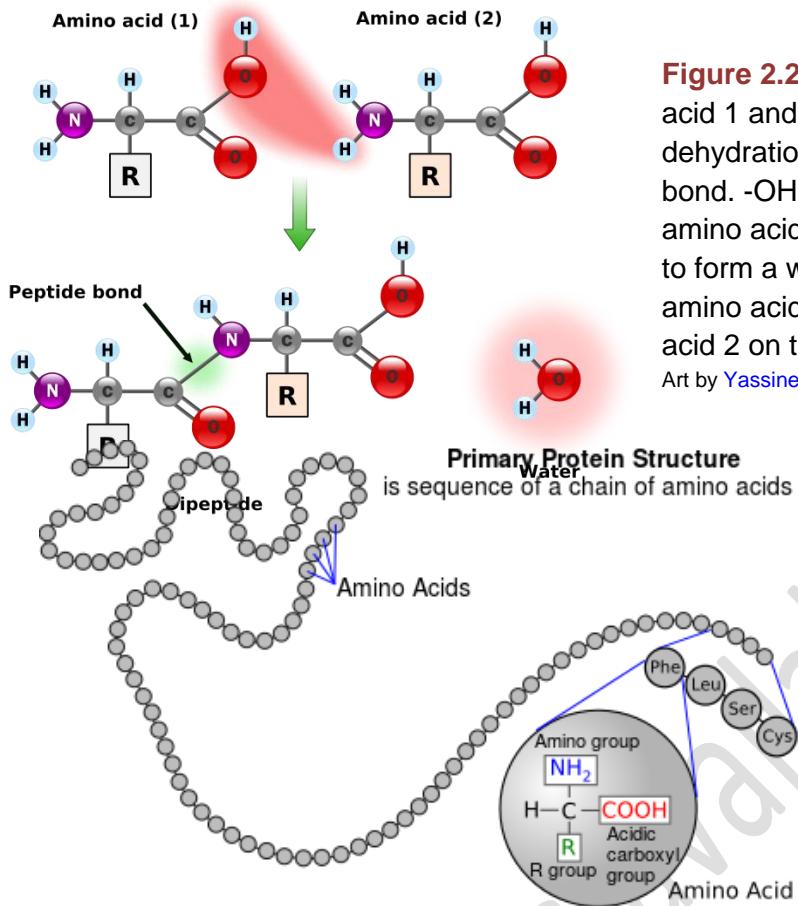
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**Figure 2.22** Six different amino acids are shown. All amino acids have in common a central  $\alpha$  carbon covalently bound to a hydrogen (shown here on the right), an amino functional group (represented as  $-NH_3^+$ ), here, and shown here on the left), a carboxyl (acid) functional group (shown on the top as  $-COO^-$ ). Different amino acids have a different side chain R (shown on the bottom in blue)

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Depending on the amino acid side chain (R) different amino acids may be polar or nonpolar. The properties of the resulting protein, including its shape and function, are determined by the sequence and types of amino acids found in the polypeptide. Two amino acids join to form a dipeptide, three amino acids form a tripeptide, four a tetrapeptide, and many amino acids form a **polypeptide**.



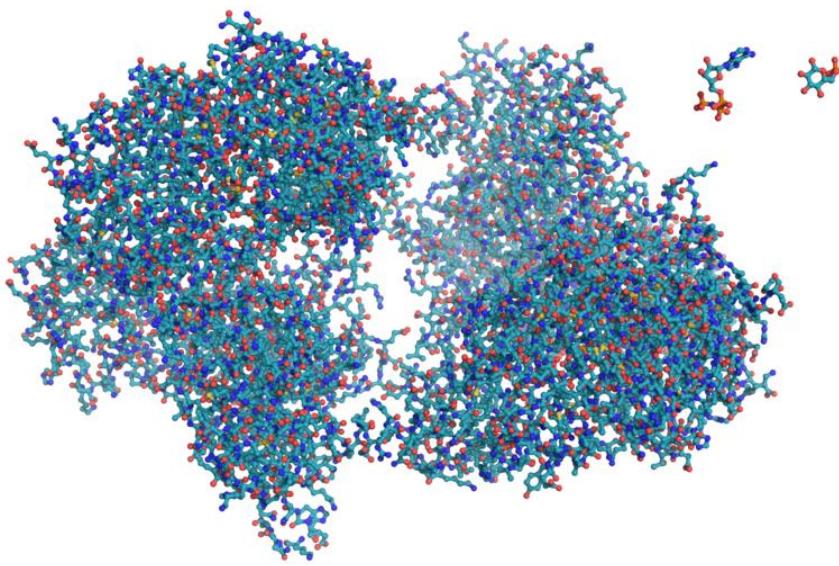
**Figure 2.23** A dipeptide is formed when amino acid 1 and amino acid 2 are joined in a dehydration synthesis reaction to form a peptide bond. -OH from amino acid 1 and -H from amino acid 2, both shown in the red cloud, join to form a water molecule. This allows carbon of amino acid 1 on the left and nitrogen of amino acid 2 on the right to form a **peptide bond**

Art by YassineMrabet - Public Domain

**Figure 2.24** Each pearl represents an amino acid, and the whole pearl necklace represents a polypeptide. Polypeptides may have up to thousands of amino acids

Art by National Human Genome Research Institute - Public Domain

The terms *protein* and *polypeptide* are often used exchangeable. However, a protein usually refers to the functioning macromolecule, whereas polypeptide refers to the sequence of amino acids linked by peptide bonds not necessarily functional. A polypeptide folded into a specific three-dimensional shape, determined by the interactions among its amino acids, is what we usually call a protein.



**Figure 2.25** A computer generated three-dimensional representation of a protein (hexokinase) made of more than 400 amino acids. Each individual amino acids cannot be differentiated from the rest here. Each tiny ball represents an element (e.g. carbon is blue, oxygen is red, etc.). The folding of a polypeptide in the space gives shape to it, and its shape determines its function. Art by [TimVickers - Public Domain](#)

**Table 3.4** Protein types, examples, and their functions

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Type	Examples	Functions
<b>Enzymes</b>	Peptidase Lipase	Increase speed of chemical reactions in the body (all metabolic reactions)
<b>Transport</b>	Hemoglobin Albumin	Carry substances in the blood or lymph throughout the body
<b>Structural</b>	Collagen Tubulin	Provide structural support Construct different structures, like the cytoskeleton (inner skeleton in a cell)
<b>Hormones</b>	Insulin Oxytocin	Chemical messengers that coordinate the activity of different body systems
<b>Defense</b>	Immunoglobulins Complement	Protect the body from foreign pathogens
<b>Contractile</b>	Actin, Myosin	Participate in muscle contraction
<b>Storage</b>	Myoglobin Ferritin	Stores oxygen in muscle cells Stores iron in the liver

See a quick proteins summary online [here](#).

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a protein?
2. What elements are proteins made of?
3. What are the monomers (building blocks) of proteins?
4. What type of bond links neighboring amino acids in a protein?
5. What is the difference between the terms “polypeptide” and “protein”?
6. What are the functions of proteins listed in the module?

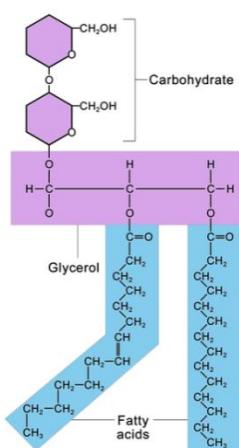
### QUIZ

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## Learning Objective 32: Define conjugated protein, lipoprotein, glycosylated molecule, glycoprotein, and glycolipid

Not all biomolecules are pure protein, pure carbohydrate, or pure lipid. **Conjugated proteins** are protein molecules combined with another kind of biomolecule. For example, proteins combine with lipids to form **lipoproteins**. Lipoproteins are found in the blood, where they act as carriers for less soluble molecules, such as cholesterol. **Glycosylated molecules** are molecules to which a carbohydrate has been attached.

Proteins combined with carbohydrates form **glycoproteins**. Lipids bound to carbohydrates become **glycolipids**. Glycoproteins and glycolipids, are important components of cell membranes. The second part of the name is always the largest part. For example proteoglycans have more carbohydrate, while glycoproteins have more protein.



**Figure 3.26** Lecithin, a glycolipid, is composed of a carbohydrate portion and a lipid portion (fatty acids plus glycerol part)

Art by BruceBlaus - CC BY 3.0

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a conjugated protein?
2. What is a glycosylated molecule?

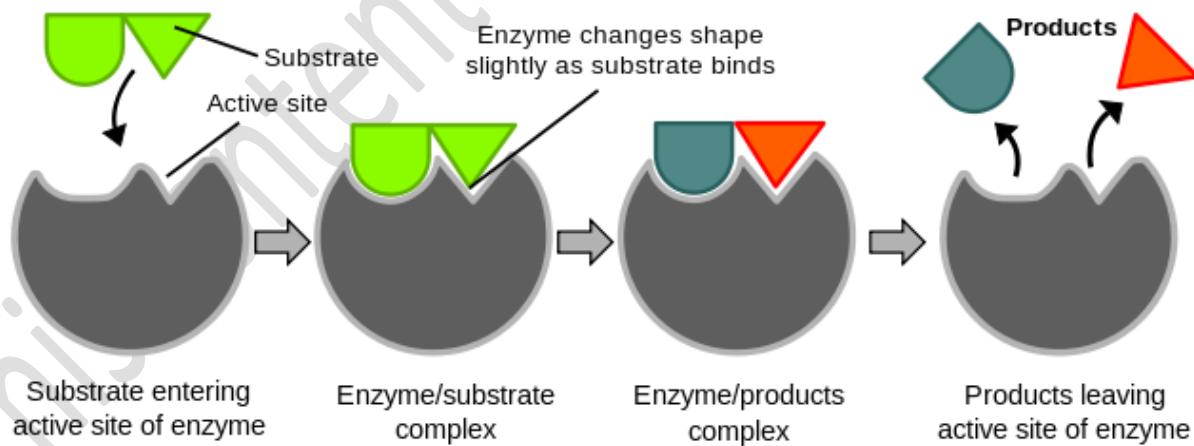
### QUIZ

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## Learning Objective 33: Define enzyme, enzymatic reaction, substrate, product, and active site

While proteins have a diversity of important functions, many proteins work as enzymes.

**Enzymes** speed up chemical reactions. We can define **enzymes** as organic catalysts (organic because proteins are organic compounds; catalyst = “substance which speeds a chemical reaction but itself remains unchanged”). Chemical reactions catalyzed by enzymes are called **enzymatic reactions**. All synthesis, decomposition, and exchange reactions occurring in our cells and body tissues are enzymatic reactions.



**Figure 3.27** Mechanism of enzyme action. In this example, the green substrate is catalyzed by the gray pacman-like enzyme into blue and red products. This is a decomposition reaction, which would also require water (not shown). Art by [TimVickers - Public Domain](#)

All chemical reactions begin with one or more substances that enter into the reaction. Substances in our cells and body tissues that enter into the reaction are called **substrates**. The one or more substances produced by a chemical reaction are called **products**. Substrate and enzyme bind in the **active site** of the enzyme (a space that matches the shape of the substrate). There is a very brief moment when an enzyme/substrate complex forms and then this complex transitions into an enzyme/product complex. The product is then released. The enzyme is not changed by the reaction and once the products are released is ready to bind more substrate. See the mechanism of enzyme action in figure 3.27 above.

Enzymes are commonly named using the suffix **-ase**. The prefix (or the root of the word) provides information about the type of reaction a particular enzyme catalyzes. For example, **lactase** is an enzyme that breaks down the disaccharide lactose; **protease** is an enzyme that breaks down proteins, **DNA polymerase** is an enzyme involved in making DNA. Generally speaking, a “something**ase**” is an enzyme that does something.

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an enzyme?
2. What is an enzymatic reaction?
3. What is an “active site” in an enzyme?
4. What is the difference between substrate and product?
5. What is the suffix used to name enzymes?

#### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## MODULE 6: NUCLEIC ACIDS

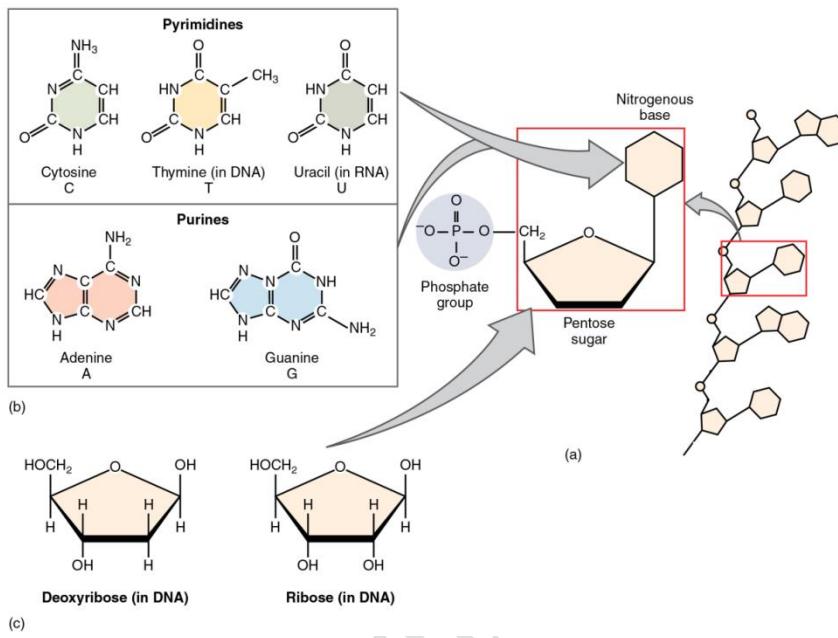
**Learning Objective 34: Describe the general chemical structure of nucleic acids, identify monomers and polymers, and list the functions of RNA and DNA**

**Nucleic acids** contain the same elements as proteins: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen; plus phosphorous (C, H, O, N, and P). **Nucleic acids** are very large

macromolecules composed of repetitive units of the same building blocks, **nucleotides**, similar to a pearl necklace made of many pearls. We can also define nucleic acids as **polymers** assembled from many smaller covalently bonded **monomers**.

Nucleic acids are the molecules that function in encoding, transmitting and expressing genetic information in our cells.

All *nucleotides* are made of three subunits: one or more phosphate groups, a pentose sugar (five-carbon sugar, either deoxyribose or ribose), and a nitrogen-containing base (either adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymine, or uracil). See figure 3.28 below.

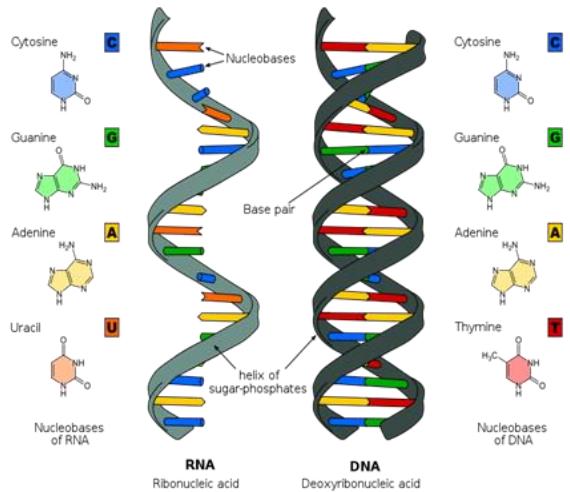


**Figure 3.28** A nucleic acid short fragment made of five nucleotides is shown on the right; one nucleotide is enclosed in a red rectangle. Each nucleotide is made of one of the five nitrogenous bases, a pentose sugar (**ribose** or **deoxyribose**) and a phosphate group. Ribonucleic acid (RNA) has ribose for a pentose, whereas deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) has deoxyribose. The five nitrogenous bases are classified as **pyrimidines** (cytosine, thymine, and uracil), which have a ring structure; and **purines** (adenine and guanine), which have a double-ring structure.

RNA molecules may have up to few-thousand nucleotides and are single-stranded, whereas DNA molecules have billions of nucleotides organized in two strings of nucleotides forming a helix. DNA, RNA, and proteins are related to each other as shown in table 3.5 below.

**Table 3.5** DNA, RNA, and proteins relationship

DNA →	is used to synthesize	RNA →	which is used to synthesize	Proteins
Polymer of nucleotides		Polymer of nucleotides		Polymer of amino acids
Encodes amino acid sequence of proteins		Transmits and expresses information in DNA		Perform most cellular functions



**Figure 3.29** DNA and RNA share three nucleotides in their composition (cytosine, guanine, and adenine), and they differ in uracil (found only in RNA) and thymine (found only in DNA). RNA is single strand, whereas DNA is double strand

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**Table 3.6** Types of nucleic acids and their functions

Type of Nucleic Acid	Function
DNA	Encodes and transmits inherited genetic information from one generation to the next
RNA	Translates the information encoded in DNA for the production of proteins, and help in their synthesis

See a video about the chemical structure of DNA double helix [here](#)

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

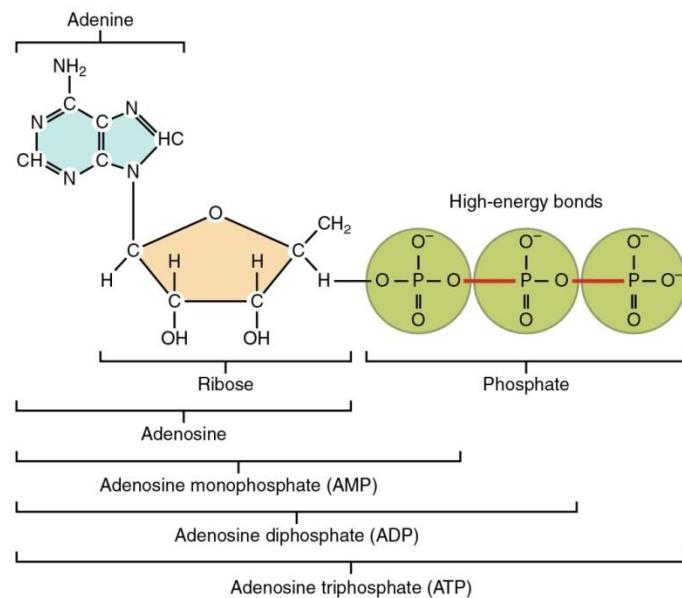
1. What is a nucleic acid?
2. What elements are nucleic acids made of?
3. What are the monomers that make the building blocks of nucleic acids?
4. What are the three components of a nucleotide?
5. List the types of nucleic acids described in the module
6. What are the functions of nucleic acid listed in the module?

### QUIZ

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## Learning Objective 35: Describe the structure and function of ATP in the cell

Nucleotides are the monomers that make up the nucleic acid polymers. Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) is a nucleotide that has an important function by itself. ATP is a direct and rapid energy source for most cellular activities. ATP consists of a single adenine (the nitrogen-containing base adenine and the sugar ribose), linked to three phosphate ions.

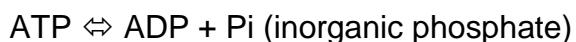


**Figure 3.31** The two covalent bonds on the right of the molecule (shown in red) are high energy bonds. When an enzymatic reaction breaks them down, a large amount of energy is released. This energy is ready to be used by a cell. On the other hand, when molecules (like the ones we incorporate in our diet) are broken down by enzymes they release energy. This energy can be temporarily held on ATP molecules in the covalent bonds formed between free phosphate groups and adenosine diphosphate (ADP)

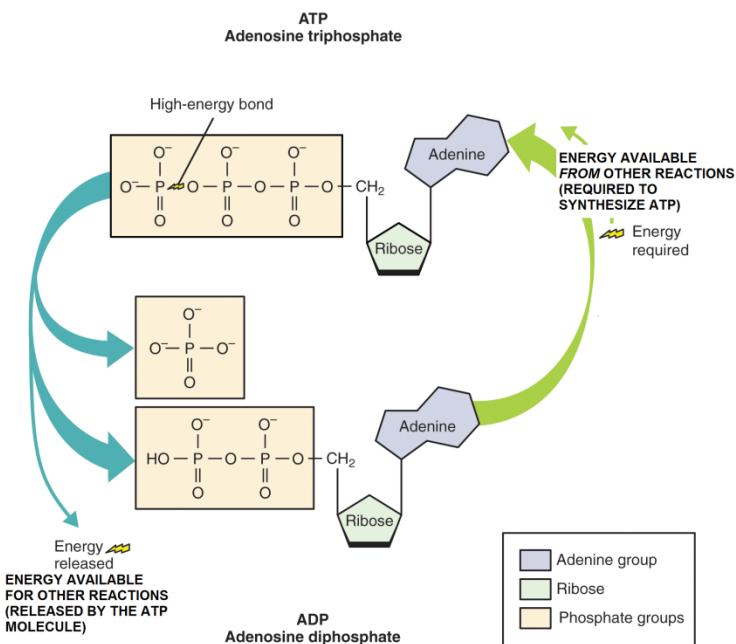
Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

ATP is regularly referred to as the primary energy currency for the cell. ATP serves as an intermediary molecule between chemical reactions that release energy, and chemical reactions that require energy. It does so by temporarily “holding” the energy released by an enzymatic reaction in the covalent bonds that attach phosphates to ADP (the red ones in the figure above). Then, the molecule of ATP can give up that energy where it is needed.

The chemical formula summarizing this process, is



Since the reaction can go in either direction (from ADP to ATP, or from ATP to ADP), this is an example of a **reversible reaction**, and it is represented with a double arrow pointing in both directions.



**Figure 3.32** Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) is the energy molecule in a cell. Energy released by decomposition reactions can be used to make a high energy covalent bond in ATP as shown in the figure. Then, ATP can give up this energy to be used for synthesis reactions.

Art derivative of OpenStax College – CC-BY

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What type of organic molecule is ATP?
2. What is the function of ATP?

### QUIZ

To access quiz questions like the ones you will see in BIO 23, you need to access the online version of this textbook → [Go here](#)

## **UNIT 4 SMALLEST LEVEL OF COMPLEXITY ALIVE: CELLS, THEIR STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS**

### **MODULE 1: CELL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION**

**Learning Objective 36: Define a cell, identify the main common components of human cells, and differentiate between intracellular fluid and extracellular fluid**

A **cell** is the smallest *living* thing in the human organism, and all living structures in the human body are made of cells. There are hundreds of different types of cells in the human body, which vary in shape (e.g. round, flat, long and thin, short and thick) and size (e.g. small granule cells of the cerebellum in the brain (4 micrometers), up to the huge oocytes (eggs) produced in the female reproductive organs (100 micrometers) and function. However, all cells have three main parts, the **plasma membrane**, the **cytoplasm** and the **nucleus**. The **plasma membrane** (often called the cell membrane) is a thin flexible barrier that separates the inside of the cell from the environment outside the cell and regulates what can pass in and out of the cell. Internally, the cell is divided into the cytoplasm and the nucleus. The **cytoplasm** (*cyto-*=cell; *-plasm* = “something molded”) is where most functions of the cell are carried out. It looks a bit-like mixed fruit jelly, where the watery jelly is called the **cytosol**; and the different fruits in it are called **organelles**. The cytosol also contains many molecules and ions involved in cell functions. Different organelles also perform different cell functions and many are also separated from the cytosol by membranes. The largest organelle, the **nucleus** is separated from the cytoplasm by a nuclear envelope (membrane). It contains the DNA (genes) that code for proteins necessary for the cell to function.

Generally speaking, the inside environment of a cell is called the **intracellular fluid (ICF)**, (intra- = within; referred to all fluid contained in cytosol, organelles and nucleus) while the environment outside a cell is called the **extracellular fluid (ECF)** (extra- = outside of; referred to all fluid outside cells). Plasma, the fluid part of blood, is the only ECF compartment that links all cells in the body.



**Figure 4.1** 3-D representation of a simple human cell. The top half of the cell volume was removed. Number 1 shows the nucleus, numbers 3 to 13 show different organelles immersed in the cytosol, and number 14 on the surface of the cell shows the plasma membrane

Art derivative of [Kelvinsong; PublicDomain](#)

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is a cell?
2. What is a plasma membrane?
3. What is a cytoplasm?
4. What is the intracellular fluid (ICF)?
5. What is the extracellular fluid (ECF)?

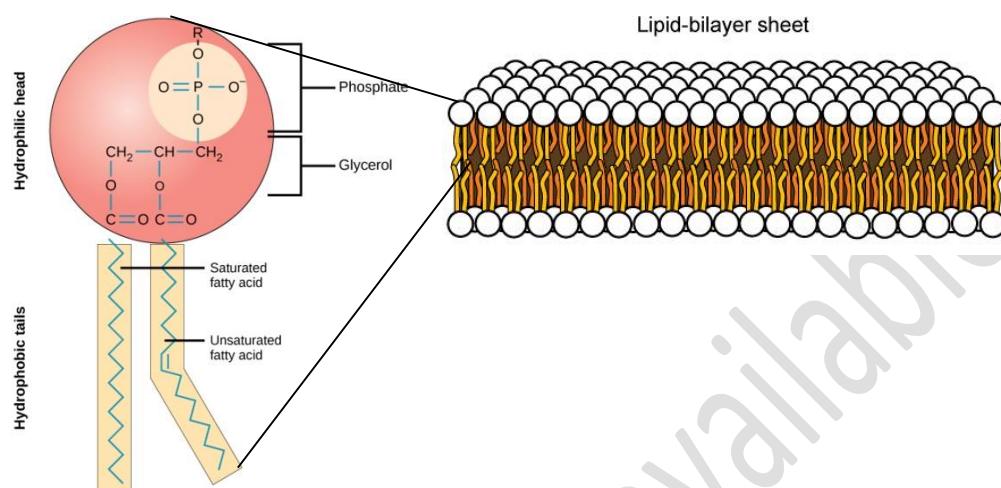
### QUIZ

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## Learning Objective 37: Describe the structure and functions of the plasma (cell) membrane.

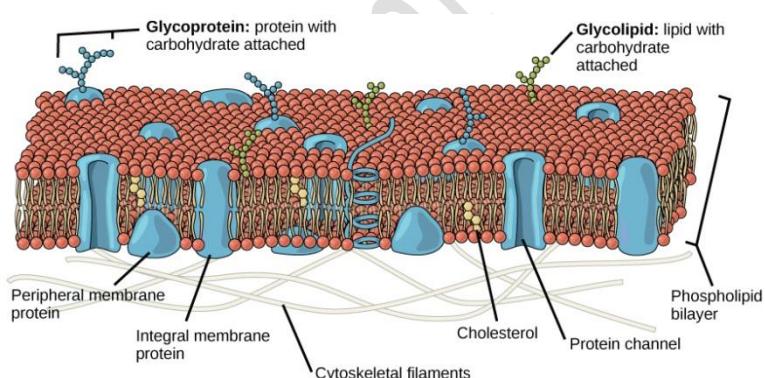
The plasma (cell) membrane separates the inner environment of a cell from the extracellular fluid. It is composed of a fluid **phospholipid bilayer** (two layers of phospholipids) as shown in figure 4.2 below, and other molecules. Not many substances can cross the phospholipid bilayer, so it serves to separate the inside of the cell from the extracellular fluid. Other molecules found in the membrane include **cholesterol, proteins, glycolipids and glycoproteins**, some of which are shown in figure 4.3 below. Cholesterol, a type of lipid, makes the membrane a little stronger. Different proteins found either crossing the bilayer (integral proteins) or on its surface (peripheral

proteins) have many important functions. Channel and transporter (carrier) proteins regulate the movement of specific molecules and ions in and out of cells. Receptor proteins in the membrane initiate changes in cell activity by binding and responding to chemical signals, such as hormones (like a lock and key). Other proteins include those that act as structural anchors to bind neighboring cells and enzymes. Glycoproteins and glycolipids in the membrane act as identification markers or labels on the extracellular surface of the membrane. Thus, the plasma membrane has many functions and works as both a gateway and a selective barrier.



**Figure 4.2**  
Phospholipids form the basic structure of a cell membrane. Hydrophobic tails of phospholipids are facing the core of the membrane avoiding contact with the inner and outer watery environment.

Hydrophilic heads are facing the surface of the membrane in contact with intracellular fluid and extracellular fluid. Art derivative of [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)



**Figure 4.3** Small area of the plasma membrane showing lipids (phospholipids and cholesterol), different proteins, glycolipids and glycoproteins.

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

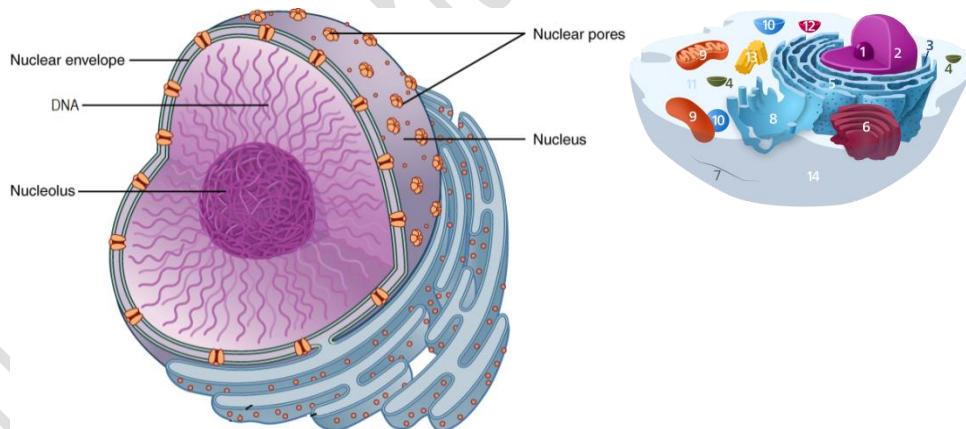
1. What is the function of the cell membrane?
2. Which are the three types of biomolecules that form the cell membrane?

### QUIZ

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### Learning Objective 38: Describe the nucleus and its function

Almost all human cells contain a nucleus where DNA, the genetic material that ultimately controls all cell processes, is found. The nucleus is the largest cellular organelle, and the only one visible using a light microscope. Much like the cytoplasm of a cell is enclosed by a plasma membrane, the nucleus is surrounded by a **nuclear envelope** that separates the contents of the nucleus from the contents of the cytoplasm. **Nuclear pores** in the envelope are small holes that control which ions and molecules (for example, proteins and RNA) can move in and out the nucleus. In addition to DNA, the nucleus contains many nuclear proteins. Together DNA and these proteins are called **chromatin**. A region inside the nucleus called the **nucleolus** is related to the production of RNA molecules needed to transmit and express the information coded in DNA. See all these structures below in figure 4.4.



**Figure 4.4**  
Nucleus of a human cell. Find DNA, nuclear envelope, nucleolus, and nuclear pores. The figure also shows how the outer layer of the

nuclear envelope continues as rough endoplasmic reticulum, which will be discussed in the next learning objective. Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#) (nucleus) and [Kelvinsong: PublicDomain](#) (cell)

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is the nuclear envelope?
2. What is a nuclear pore?
3. What is the function of the nucleus?

### QUIZ

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## Learning Objective 39: Describe the components of the cytoplasm and their functions

The function of the cytoplasm is to provide the appropriate environment where most cellular activity happens. The cytoplasm includes cytosol, organelles, inclusions, and a cytoskeleton. The **cytosol** is a semi-gelatinous fluid with dissolved ions, enzymes, nutrients and waste, and the environment where many chemical reactions happen in a cell. **Organelles** (-elle = diminutive; “little organ”) are tiny organ-like intracellular structures made of macromolecules (such as proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, glycolipids, glycoproteins, lipoproteins), and they carry out specialized functions in the overall functions of the cell. Many organelles are separated from the cytosol by cell membranes, while others are not. **Inclusions** (sometimes called nonmembranous organelles) are undissolved particles, like fat droplets and glycogen granules. The **cytoskeleton** is an organelle that serves as the cell’s internal scaffolding system and it is made of proteins. The cytosol and intracellular fluid have similar meanings, except intracellular fluid also includes fluid found inside of organelles.

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is the cytosol?
2. What are organelles?
3. What are inclusions?

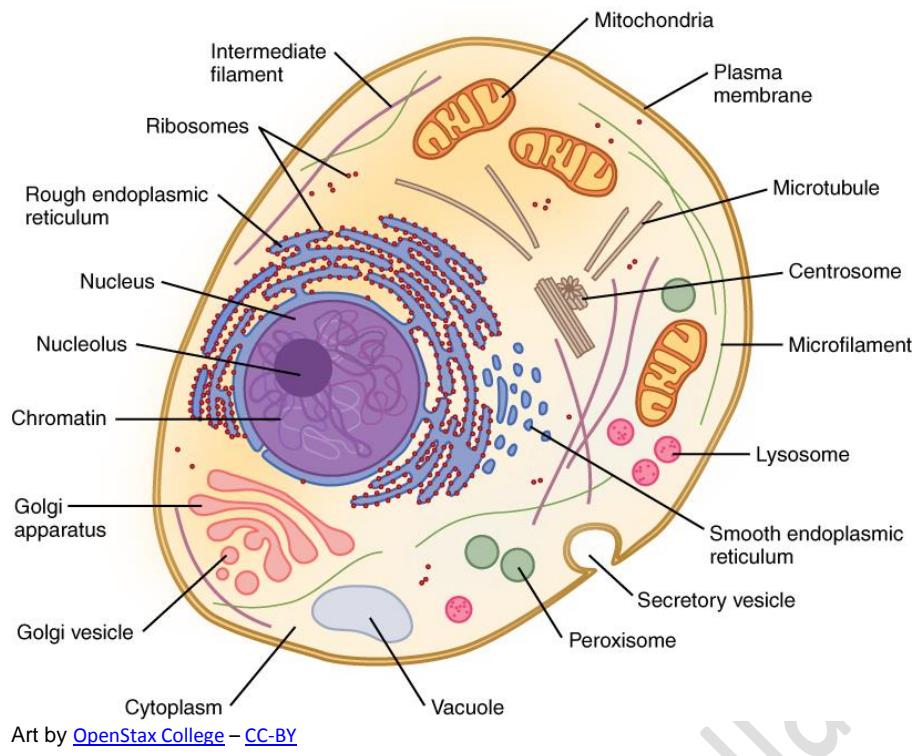
4. What is the cytoskeleton?

**QUIZ**

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**Learning Objective 40: Identify the structure and function of cytoplasmic organelles**

An **organelle** is any structure inside a cell that carries out a metabolic function. The cytoplasm contains many different organelles, each with a specialized function. (The nucleus discussed above is the largest cellular organelle but is not considered part of the cytoplasm). Many organelles are cellular compartments separated from the cytosol by one or more membranes very similar in structure to the cell membrane, while others such as centrioles and free ribosomes do not have a membrane. See figure 4.5 and table 4.1 below to learn the structure and functions of different organelles such as mitochondria (which are specialized to produce cellular energy in the form of ATP) and ribosomes (which synthesize the proteins necessary for the cell to function). Membranes of the rough and smooth endoplasmic reticulum form a network of interconnected tubes inside of cells that are continuous with the nuclear envelope. These organelles are also connected to the Golgi apparatus and the plasma membrane by means of vesicles. Different cells contain different amounts of different organelles depending on their function. For example, muscle cells contain many mitochondria while cells in the pancreas that make digestive enzymes contain many ribosomes and secretory vesicles.



**Figure 4.5** Typical example of a cell containing the primary organelles and internal structures. Table 4.1 below describes the functions of mitochondrion, rough and smooth endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus, secretory vesicles, peroxisomes, lysosomes, microtubules and microfilaments (fibers of the cytoskeleton)

**Table 4.1** Cellular Structures and their functions. Nucleus and plasma membrane were described in the previous learning objectives and are also important cellular structures

Table's art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

Organelles	Function	Structure
<b>Mitochondria</b>	Important in ATP (cellular energy) production	<p>The diagram illustrates a mitochondrion, a rod-shaped organelle. It features a double membrane boundary consisting of an inner membrane and an outer membrane. The inner membrane is extensively folded into numerous cristae, which are labeled. The space between the membranes is labeled 'Intermembrane space'. The interior of the mitochondrion is filled with a dense, orange-colored matrix.</p>
<b>Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum (RER)</b>	Participates in protein synthesis (ribosomes in its membrane synthesize proteins)	<p>This diagram shows a cross-section of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). The rough ER is depicted as a network of blue membranes studded with red dots representing ribosomes. The smooth ER is shown as a series of blue, tubular structures. In the background, a purple nucleus is visible.</p>
<b>Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum (SER)</b>	Synthesizes lipids, and stores calcium in muscle cells	<p>A detailed view of the smooth endoplasmic reticulum (SER), which appears as a series of interconnected, flattened, and somewhat irregular blue membranes.</p>
<b>Ribosomes</b> (shown here synthesizing a protein)  Found attached to RER and free in the cytosol	Synthesize proteins.	<p>A close-up diagram of a ribosome during protein synthesis. It consists of two large, light-blue subunits. A red 'Growing Protein Chain' is emerging from the bottom subunit, attached to a red 'tRNA' molecule. Below the ribosome, a blue 'mRNA' strand is visible, with a purple 'tRNA' molecule also attached to it.</p>

<p><b>Golgi apparatus</b> (also known as Golgi complex)</p>	<p>Participates in protein modification, and packaging into small membrane-bound vesicles</p>	<p>The diagram illustrates the Golgi apparatus as a stack of pink, flattened, sac-like structures called cisternae. It is positioned between the rough endoplasmic reticulum (Rough ER) and the plasma membrane. A purple nucleus is located above the ER. Small green vesicles are shown budding off from the Golgi's surface and moving towards the plasma membrane. One vesicle is labeled 'Secretory vesicle' and another is labeled 'Transport vesicle'. The side facing the ER is labeled 'cis face', and the side facing away is labeled 'trans face'.</p>	
<p><b>Vesicles</b> are small round membrane-enclosed structures</p>	<p><b>Transport Vesicles</b></p>	<p>Move substances between compartments inside cells</p>	<p>This diagram shows a transport vesicle budding off from a cisterna of the Golgi apparatus and moving towards the plasma membrane. The vesicle is labeled 'Transport vesicle'. The cisternae are labeled 'Cisternae'.</p>
	<p><b>Secretory Vesicles</b></p>	<p>Join with cell membrane to release contents, such as mucus, to ECF</p>	<p>This diagram shows a secretory vesicle budding off from the plasma membrane and fusing with it to release its contents into the extracellular fluid (ECF). The vesicle is labeled 'Secretory vesicle'.</p>
	<p><b>Peroxisomes</b></p>	<p>Contain enzymes that catabolize (break down) fatty acids and some chemical toxins</p>	<p>This diagram shows a cross-section of a peroxisome. It has a single membrane boundary labeled 'Plasma membrane'. Inside, there is a large, yellowish-orange crystalline core. The outer boundary is labeled 'Lipid bilayer'.</p>
	<p><b>Lysosomes</b></p>	<p>Contain digestive enzymes</p>	<p>This diagram shows a cross-section of a lysosome. It has a single membrane boundary labeled 'Plasma membrane'. Inside, the fluid is described as having an 'Acidic (low pH) environment with digestive enzymes'. The outer boundary is labeled 'Lipid bilayer'.</p>

<p><b>Fibers of the Cytoskeleton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) microtubule made of tubulin,</li> <li>(b) microfilament made of actin, and</li> <li>(c) intermediate fibers made of keratins</li> </ul>	<p>Provide an internal cellular scaffolding</p>	<p>(a) Column of tubulin dimers: A vertical column of green spheres representing tubulin dimers. A bracket indicates a height of 25 nm. A single tubulin dimer is shown magnified at the top right.</p> <p>(b) Actin subunit: A horizontal chain of red spheres representing actin subunits. A bracket indicates a height of 7 nm. A single actin subunit is shown magnified at the top left.</p> <p>(c) Fibrous subunit (keratins coiled together): A coiled yellow structure representing intermediate fibers. A bracket indicates a height of 8–12 nm. A single fibrous subunit is shown magnified at the bottom left.</p>
<p><b>Centrioles</b> (found in an area in the cell called <b>centrosome</b>)</p>	<p>Organize DNA movement during cell division</p>	<p>Diagram of a centrosome showing microtubule triplets and centrioles. Centrioles are small, rod-shaped structures composed of microtubules. Microtubule triplets are groups of three microtubules that radiate from the centrioles.</p>

## Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an organelle?
2. Which are the organelles listed in the module?

### QUIZ

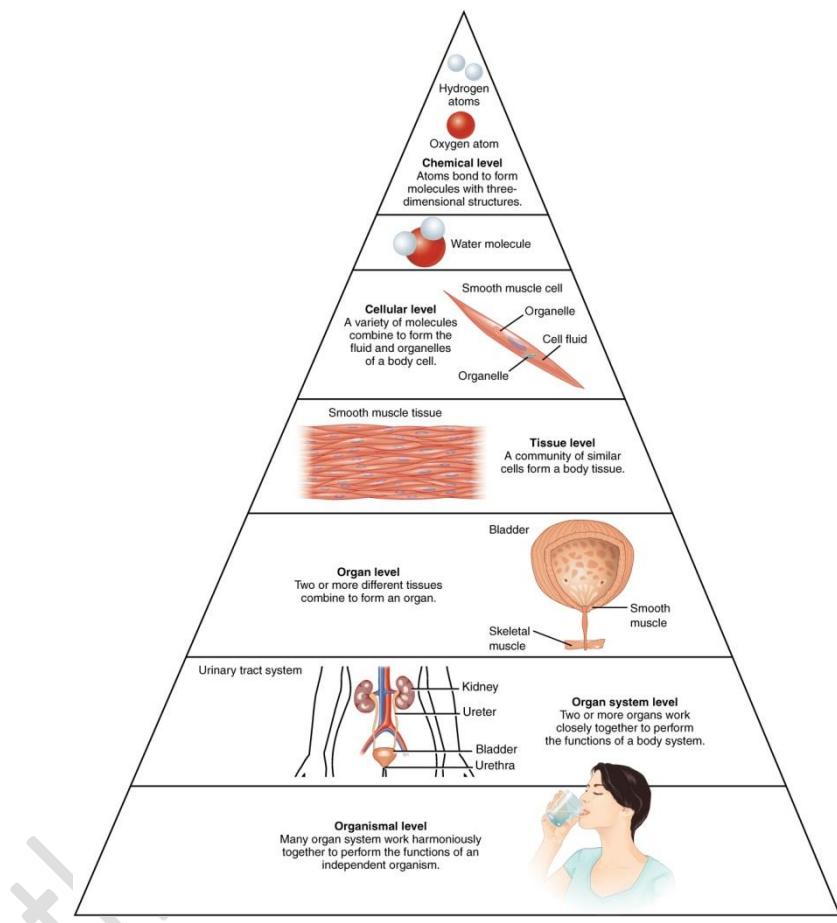
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## UNIT 5 HIGHER LEVELS OF COMPLEXITY: ORGANS AND SYSTEMS

### MODULE 1: ORGANS AND SYSTEMS OF THE HUMAN ORGANISM

**Learning Objective 41:** Define organ and organ system, and list the organ systems in the human organism

An **organ** is a group of tissues that work together for the overall function of the organ, and an **organ system** is a group of organs that work together to perform a specific function. The human organism consists of eleven organ systems. They are Integumentary System, Skeletal System, Muscular System, Nervous System, Endocrine System, Cardiovascular System, Lymphatic System, Respiratory System, Digestive System, Urinary System, and Reproductive System (Female and Male).



**Figure 5.1** Organs and organ systems are the highest levels of complexity forming the human organism.

Art by [OpenStax College – CC-BY](#)

### Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is an organ system?
2. List all the organ systems in the human organism

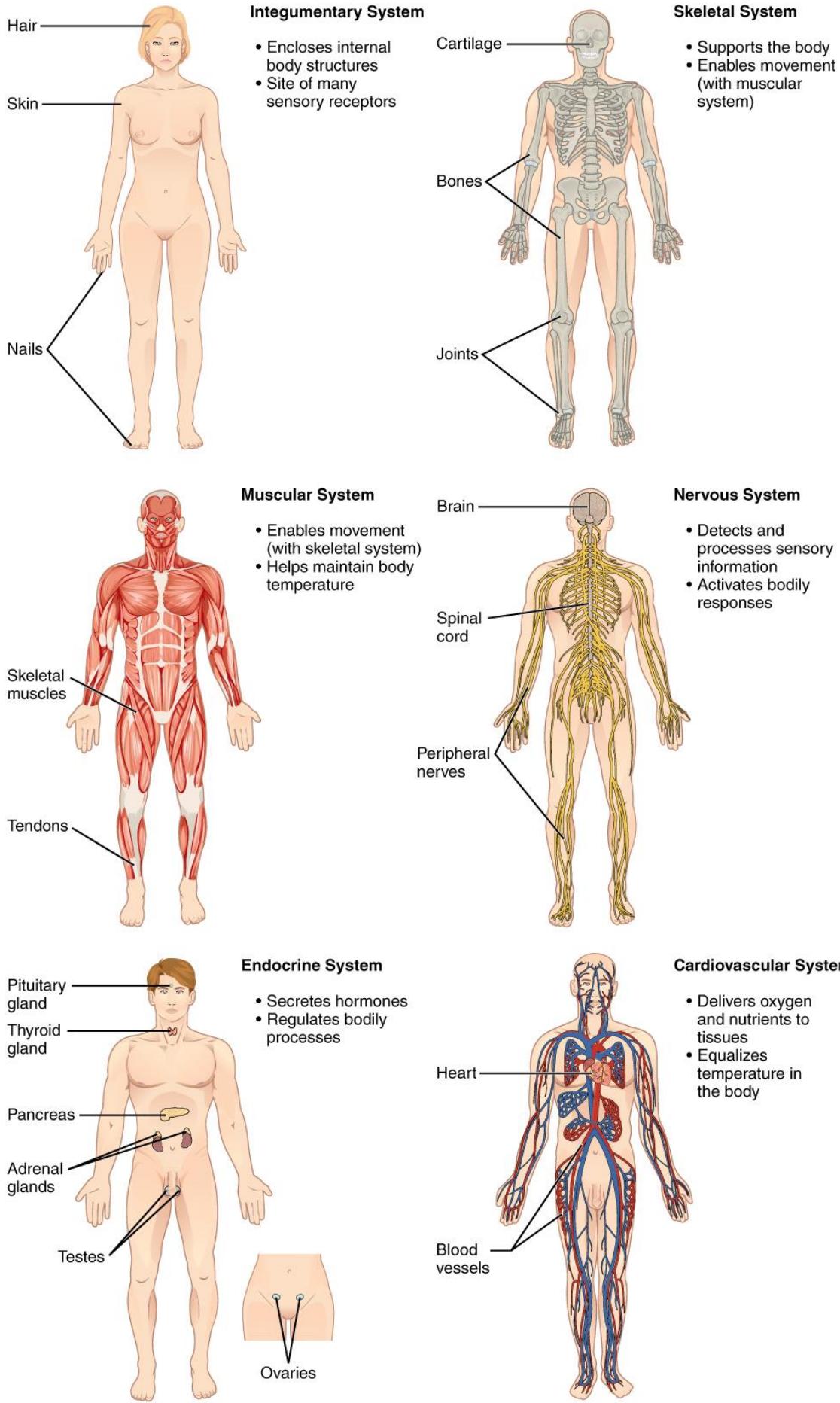
**QUIZ**

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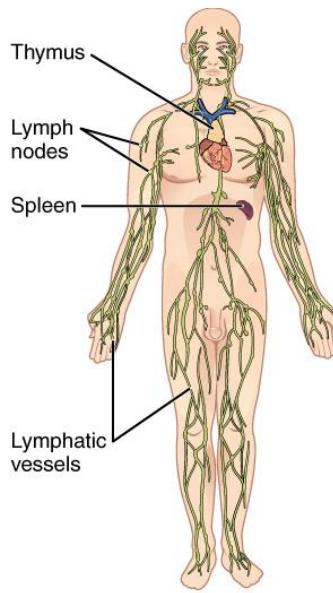
**Learning Objective 42: Describe the functions of the organs systems, and list the main organs of each system**

Refer to Figures 5.2 and 5.3 below to determine the organs and functions of the eleven organ systems. Note that some organs perform activities that directly participate in the functioning of more than one system. For example, the testes and ovaries both have an endocrine function (producing sex hormones) and a reproductive function (producing, cells called gametes that will fuse to make a new organism). Another example is the pancreas, which has an endocrine function (producing hormones) and a digestive function (producing juices that help digestion).

All organ systems must work correctly for an organism, such as humans, to maintain homeostasis and health. Since all organ systems are ultimately made of ions and molecules, an understanding of the chemical and cellular organization of the body, as reviewed in this course, is needed in order to successfully master human anatomy and physiology.

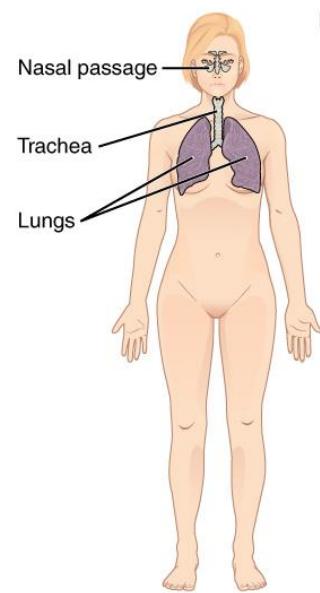


**Figure 5.2**  
Organs and function of Integumentary System, Skeletal System, Muscular System, Nervous System, Endocrine System,



#### Lymphatic System

- Returns fluid to blood
- Defends against pathogens

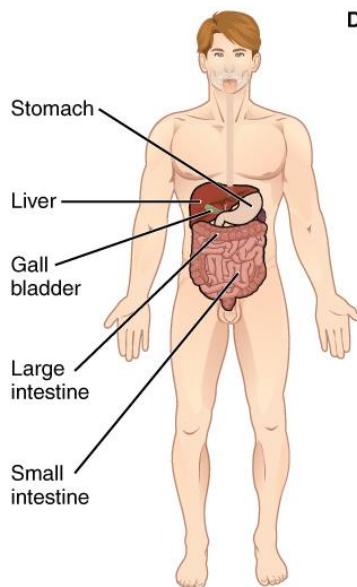


#### Respiratory System

- Removes carbon dioxide from the body
- Delivers oxygen to blood

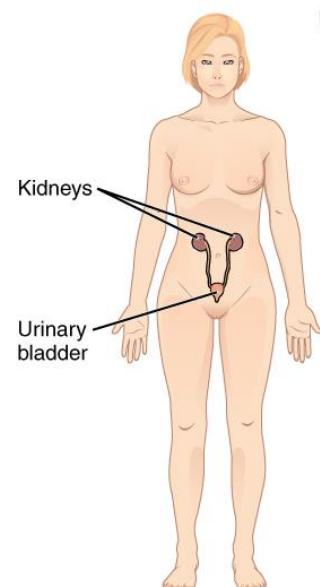
## Cardiovascular System

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#### Digestive System

- Processes food for use by the body
- Removes wastes from undigested food



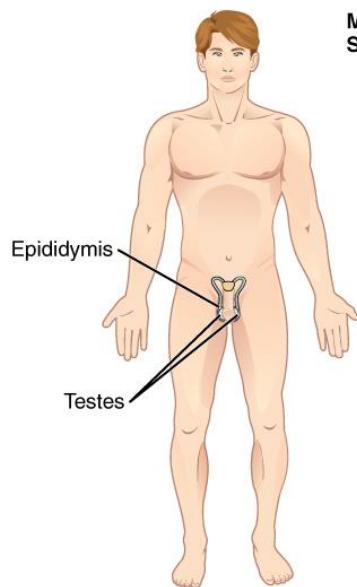
#### Urinary System

- Controls water balance in the body
- Removes wastes from blood and excretes them

**Figure 5.3**

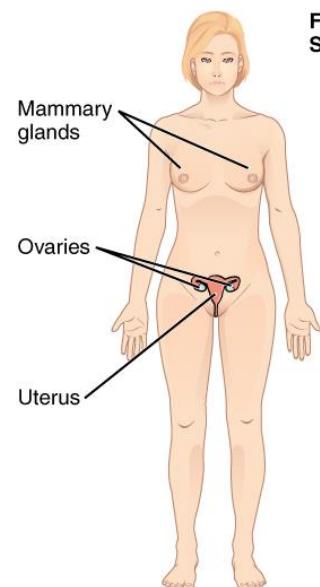
Organs and function of lymphatic system, respiratory system, digestive system, urinary system, and female and male reproductive system

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#### Male Reproductive System

- Produces sex hormones and gametes
- Delivers gametes to female



#### Female Reproductive System

- Produces sex hormones and gametes
- Supports embryo/fetus until birth
- Produces milk for infant

## **Concepts, Terms, and Facts Check**

Answer the study questions and take the quiz below before moving on to the next learning objective

**Study Questions** Write your answer in a sentence form (do *not* answer using loose words)

1. What is the function of the Integumentary System
2. List the organs of the Integumentary System
3. What is the function of the Skeletal System
4. List the organs of the Skeletal System
5. What is the function of the Muscular System
6. List the organs of the Muscular System
7. What is the function of the Nervous System
8. List the organs of the Nervous System
9. What is the function of the Endocrine System
10. List the organs of the Endocrine System
11. What is the function of the Cardiovascular System
12. List the organs of the Cardiovascular System
13. What is the function of the Lymphatic System
14. List the organs of the Lymphatic System
15. What is the function of the Respiratory System
16. List the organs of the Respiratory System
17. What is the function of the Digestive System
18. List the organs of the Digestive System
19. What is the function of the Urinary System
20. List the organs of the Urinary System
21. What is the function of the Female Reproductive System
22. List the organs of the Female Reproductive System
23. What is the function of the Male Reproductive System
24. List the organs of the Male Reproductive System

### **QUIZ**

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