

## 1.7 The Mitochondria

Mitochondria are parts of cells that take food and make energy for the cell can use. Inside the cells are structures that perform specific functions for the cell known as organelles, which are responsible for producing energy for the cell that is the mitochondria. The main function of mitochondria is to produce energy for the cell using a special molecule **(two atoms joined together)** for energy called **Adenosine Triphosphate** (ATP). The ATP for the cell is made in the mitochondria and it produces energy through the process of cellular respiration or breathing. The mitochondria take food molecules in the form of carbohydrates and combine them with oxygen to create the ATP **(special molecule made from strings of amino acids)**. They use proteins known as enzymes to produce a chemical reaction.

## 1.8 Self-Check Questions for the Mitochondria Sub-Section

1. What is the main function of the mitochondria?
2. Where is Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) made?
3. What is ATP made of?