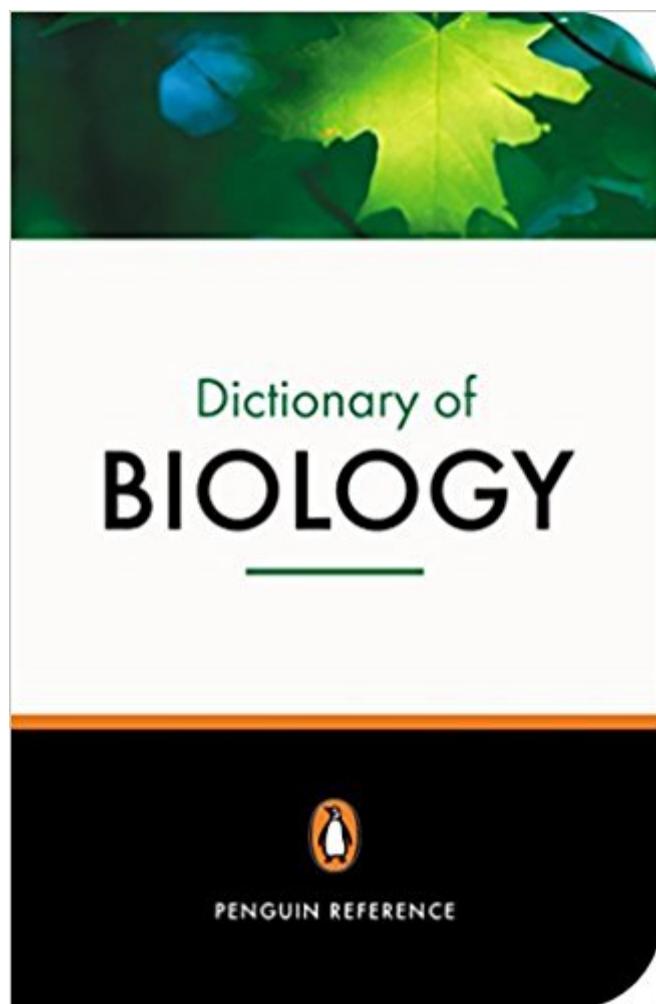


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# The Penguin Dictionary Of Biology (Penguin Dictionary)



## Synopsis

Worried about your maternal effect or biological clock? Need to know a rhizoid from a rhizome? Think you're going to fail your zoology or botany exam? The Penguin Dictionary of Biology is your saviour, defining some 6000 terms relating to this rich, complex and constantly expanding subject from amino acids, bacteria and the cell cycle to X-ray diffraction, Y chromosome and zygotes. Long established as the definitive single-volume source, this dictionary has sold over 200,000 copies and is extensively updated for its eleventh edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A marvelous compendium: accurate, clear and complete. (Matt Ridley, author of *Genome*)"

Michael Thain has taught biology at Harrow since 1969. He is a fellow of the Institute of Biology and a council member of the London Natural History Society. Michael Hickman has been Professor of Botany at the University of Alberta, Canada, since 1981. He lives in Edmonton.

For students of Biology new vocabulary is perhaps the most daunting of obstacles. One often hears the same unfamiliar term used in multiple and quite varying circumstances. It's frustratingly difficult to correctly associate the appropriate definition to the corresponding new terminology. This book does an excellent job of defining unfamiliar terms while sewing together their differing and appropriate uses. All Biology students should have an excellent Dictionary of Biology.

Consider it an unfair advantage. I would recommend this book for all High School and most University Level Biology courses.

The question was: what (or whatever) maintains the resting membrane potential nowadays! I always thought that it was the sodium pump (or Na K ATPase etc.). Recently, I heard: No, it is not the sodium pump that maintains the resting potential. So I checked both the Oxford and the Penguin Dictionaries of Biology. Oxford says that the resting potential is maintained by the sodium pump; however, the Penguin says it is the leaky potassium channels, and sodium pump plays a slight role. Well, it is one of those academic debates, it would seem--which really mean nothing--because nothing is at stake! The debate is from confusing maintenance, recovery, and repair--perhaps. Is it the resting potential (a thing being maintained) or is it the repolarization after a depolarization (a thing in recovery) that we are talking about? Is maintenance still maintenance if you spend energy in extruding the smaller atoms out--well: a running car can be maintained only by spending money? Perhaps, after all, it is only the usual confusion of the frogs in a well: they can only see the stars in their own horizons. The whole biological process has several components, and to know which is the one--well, just take one out and see if the process holds and functions. Which brick is the most important in a wall? Clearly, the truth is never simple, and possibly there is no such thing as the truth. Things evolve using all of the components--and are what they are. So, I guess it is always the context and it is always relative: point of view etc. There is no simple correct answer because the question is incorrectly formulated--without the necessary context. What is more important in the running of a car: the engine or the gas? So get both the Oxford and Penguin--they complement, and both are useful when viewed and understood in the right context: neither can replace the textbook; and no textbook replaces all the source materials--but you need to start somewhere. For a rich fantasy life read Ayul Zamir's Intern Beth. Now, whatever maintains that resting membrane potential!

I found this book to be a great reference in conjunction with a good textbook like Campbell's Biology. This dictionary helped me look up difficult concepts that were not always explained that well in my biology college classes. If you want a great resource for knowing the type of questions asked on college biology tests, get The Ultimate Study Guide for Biology: Key Review Questions and Answers with Explanations (Topics: Organization of Living Things & Chemistry of Life, Structure and Function of The Cell and Energy Pathways, Reproduction and Heredity, Genetics) Vol 1 by Patrick Leonardi. The Ultimate Study Guide for Biology: Key Review Questions and Answers with

Explanations (Topics: Evolution, Ecology, Kingdom Bacteria, Kingdom Protista, Kingdom Fungi, Viruses, Plant Form and Function.) Vol 2The Ultimate Study Guide for Biology: Key Review Questions and Answers with Explanations (Topics: Kingdom Animalia, Organization of the Animal Body, Animal Form and Function, Animal Reproduction, Development and Behavior) Vol 3Penguin's dictionary, Campbell's Biology, and Leonard's study guides helped me and my study group get excellent grades.

I majored in biology and work in a lab, and I use this book quite frequently. Not all of us remember every single thing from school, and this book is perfect for a quick reminder of terminology and processes. It covers a great deal of common and uncommon topics, and provides great illustrations for some of the central concepts of life science. I recommend this book for anyone working in, studying, or interested in biology. It is much quicker than trying to go through your old notes or textbooks!

I am not a scientist which is precisely why I love this book. I can look up practically any biological term and get an understandable yet complete and intelligent definition. I am amazed at how comprehensive this book is. Every possible term that I can think of seems to be included from "Aberrant chromosome behaviour" to "Zymogen." But, this book goes beyond the beautifully crafted definitions, it has wonderfully detailed drawings. I am so impressed that I don't know any literate person who would not benefit from having this reference on his or her shelf; even a biologist would be able to refresh on terminology. Great for students too! GREAT FOR EVERYONE!

I am a biology major and my professor suggested purchasing this dictionary. I did and have used it very few times. The times that I did used it I left with more questions than answers. If you do not speak the language of biology fluently this dictionary will be very confusing.

I'm an upper level biology major at a 4-year university, and I think every term that I looked up was not in this book. Maybe it would be fine for people who know absolutely nothing about biology, but if you're looking for a book to give you something a little extra other than your biology text book, this is not it.

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