

# Reproduction

Keyword	Definition
Egg Cell	The female sex cell (gamete)
Sperm Cell	The male sex cell (gamete)
Fertilisation	The fusing of the male and female sex cells.
Ovary	The female reproductive organ that releases egg cells.
Testes	The male reproductive organs which produce sperm cells.
Embryo	Tiny new human life which grows by cell division from a fertilised egg cell.
Gestation	The period between fertilisation and birth, also known as 'pregnancy'
Placenta	The organ that allows substances (such as oxygen) to pass between the mother's blood and baby's blood.
Amniotic Fluid	A fluid which surrounds the foetus and helps to cushion it.
Foetus	The unborn baby after around 8 weeks of pregnancy.
Menstruation	Where the lining of the uterus breaks down every month if the egg is not fertilised. Also known as the period.
Sexual Reproduction	Producing new organisms by the joining of two sex cells.
Asexual Reproduction	Producing new organisms from only one parent.

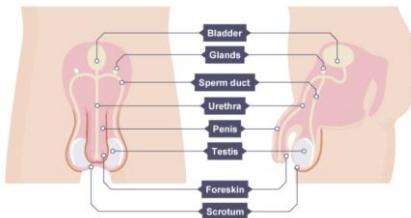
## Further Reading:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z9fgr82/revision/1>



## The Male Reproductive System

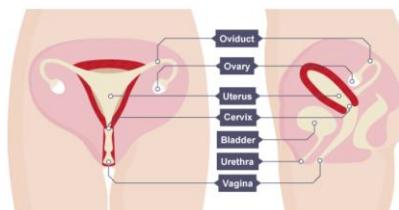
The testes produce millions of male gametes (sex cells) called sperm. The sperm pass through sperm ducts, and mix with fluids produced by the glands. The penis passes urine and semen out of the male's body. The urethra is the tube which carries the urine or semen.



## The Female Reproductive System

The two ovaries contain hundreds of undeveloped female gametes. These are called ova (one is called an ovum). Women have these cells in their body from birth.

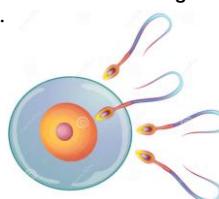
Each ovary is connected to the uterus by an oviduct, sometimes known as the fallopian tube. Every month, an egg develops, becomes mature and is released from an ovary.



- The uterus is where a baby develops until its birth.
- The cervix is a ring of muscle at the lower end of the uterus. It keeps the baby in place while the woman is pregnant.
- The vagina is a muscular tube that leads from the cervix to the outside of the woman's body.

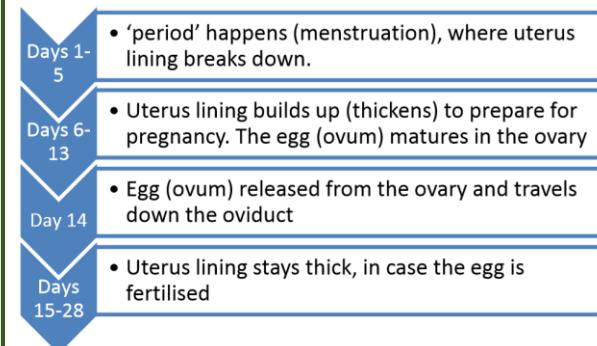
## Fertilisation

Fertilisation is when a sperm cell and ovum fuse. Sperm cells are released into the female reproductive system during sexual intercourse (ejaculation). Only one sperm cell breaks through the cell membrane and enters the ovum.



## The Menstrual Cycle

The menstrual cycle prepares the female body for pregnancy by causing eggs (ova) to mature and be released. The process lasts for 28 days.



## Foetus Development & Placenta

The foetus relies upon its mother as it develops.

- Protection against knocks and bumps.
- Oxygen
- Nutrients (food & Water)



The placenta is an organ responsible for providing oxygen and nutrients, and removing waste substances. It grows into the wall of the uterus and is joined by the foetus by the umbilical cord.

- Oxygen and nutrients diffuse from mother to foetus.
- Carbon dioxide and other waste substances diffuse across the placenta from foetus to mother.

