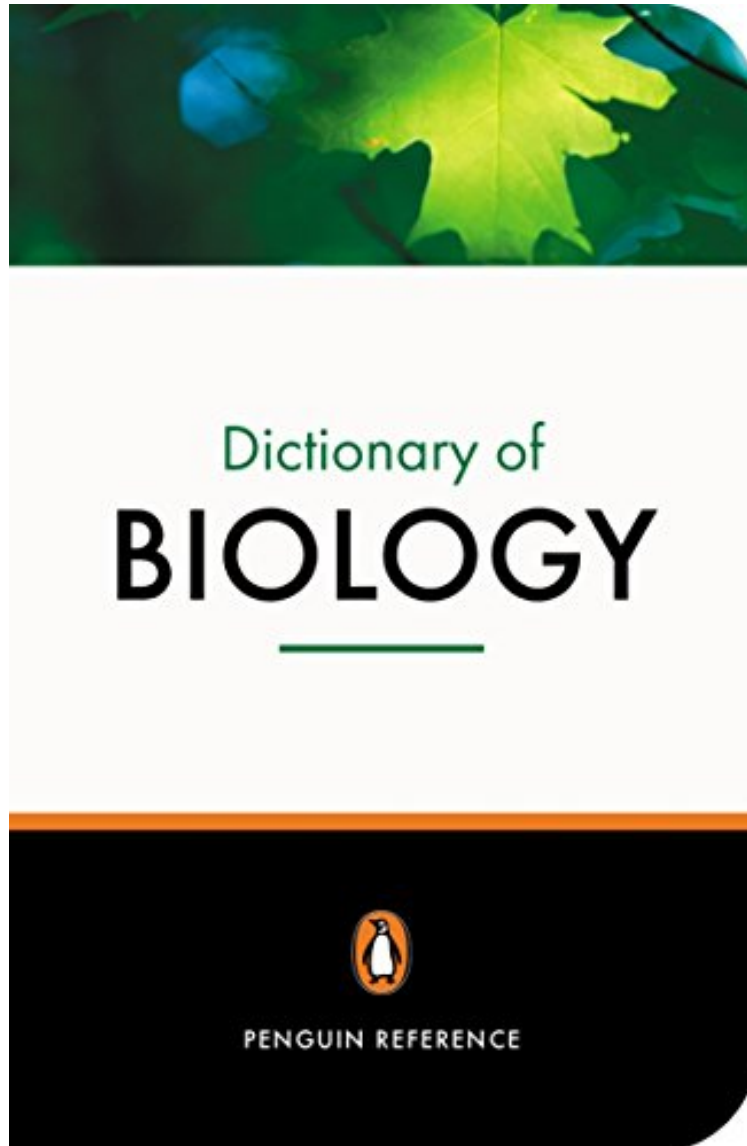


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The Penguin Dictionary of Biology (Penguin Dictionary)

Michael Thain, Michael Hickman

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Michael Thain, Michael Hickman : The Penguin Dictionary of Biology (Penguin Dictionary) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Penguin Dictionary of Biology (Penguin Dictionary):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Addition For Nearly all Biology CoursesBy robertFor 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. Its 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. 3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Maintain that resting potential, now! By B. S. Mann

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!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Quick reference, good for college biology By Shelly

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 2

The 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 3

Penguin's dictionary, Campbell's Biology, and Leonardi's study guides helped me and my study group get excellent grades.

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.

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

About the Author 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.