

$\delta^-$ delta negative	slightly negative
$\delta^+$ delta positive	slightly positive
active transport	the movement of ions or molecules across a cellular membrane from a lower to a higher concentration, requiring the consumption of energy.
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate; an adenosine-derived nucleotide that supplies large amounts of energy to cells for various biochemical processes, including muscle contraction and sugar metabolism, through its hydrolysis to ADP.
bilayer	a structure composed of two molecular layers, especially of phospholipids in cellular membranes.
carrier proteins	involved in the active transport of molecules through the membrane, often called an in pump e.g. pumping sodium ions out of and potassium ions into the cell
cell membrane	The thin membrane that forms the outer surface of the protoplasm of a cell and regulates the passage of materials in and out of the cell. It is made up of proteins and lipids and often contains molecular receptors.
channel proteins	Proteins that stretch across the cell membrane and create channels that allow specific molecules through e.g. ions and large molecules. The process is diffusion i.e. from high to low concentration.
cholesterol	keeps membrane at the correct phase state (fluidity) and regulates intercellular communication
diffusion	e.g. oxygen and carbon dioxide enter or leave the cell down a concentration gradient.
dipole	a molecule in which the centre of positive charge does not coincide with the centre of negative charge
endocytosis	sections of membranes engulf substances outside the cell and transport them into the cell as vesicles
exocytosis	the transport of material out of a cell by means of a sac or vesicle that first engulfs the material and then is extruded through an opening in the cell membrane
facilitated diffusion	see channel proteins e.g. osmosis
fatty acid	Any of a large group of organic acids, especially those found in animal and vegetable fats and oils. Fatty acids are mainly composed of long chains of hydrocarbons ending in a carboxyl group. A fatty acid is saturated when the bonds between carbon atoms are all single bonds. It is unsaturated when any of these bonds is a double bond.
fluid mosaic model	fluid, due to cholesterol and mosaic, which describes the pattern of molecules in the membrane
glycoprotein	Any of a group of complex proteins, as mucin, containing a carbohydrate combined with a simple protein. Play a role in antibody response and are also involved when e.g. an egg is fertilised by a sperm.

hydrophilic	having an affinity for water; readily absorbing or dissolving in water
hydrophobic	having little or no affinity for water
induced dipole	A dipole-induced dipole attraction is a weak attraction that results when a polar molecule induces a dipole in an atom or in a nonpolar molecule by disturbing the arrangement of electrons in the nonpolar species.
integral protein	Different types of proteins are embedded in the plasma membrane as well. Integral and peripheral proteins are two types of such membrane proteins. The main difference between integral and peripheral proteins is that integral proteins are embedded in the whole bilayer whereas peripheral proteins are located on the inner or outer surface of the phospholipid bilayer.
lipid	Any of a large group of organic compounds that are esters of fatty acids (simple lipids, such as fats and waxes) or closely related substances (compound lipids, such as phospholipids): usually insoluble in water but soluble in alcohol and other organic solvents. They are a source of stored energy and are a component of cell membranes.
London dispersion	London dispersion forces are a type of force acting between atoms and molecules. They are part of the van der Waals forces. The LDF is named after the German physicist Fritz London.
osmosis	facilitated diffusion of water molecules
passive transport	diffusion (down a concentration gradient)
peripheral protein	anchor membrane to the cells interior scaffolding (cytoskeleton)
phospholipid	Any of various phosphorus-containing lipids, such as lecithin, that are composed mainly of fatty acids, a phosphate group, and a simple organic molecule such as glycerol. Phospholipids are the main lipids in cell membranes.
polar	Also: heteropolar (of a molecule or compound) being or having a molecule in which there is an uneven distribution of electrons and thus a permanent dipole moment - water has polar molecules
saturated	no double bonds ("straight" molecule)
transmembrane proteins	see channel proteins
unsaturated	have double bonds (bends the molecule)
van der Waals force	A weak attractive force between atoms or nonpolar molecules caused by an instantaneous dipole moment of one atom or molecule that induces a similar temporary dipole moment in adjacent atoms or molecules.
vesicle	A membrane-bound sac in eukaryotic cells that stores or transports the products of metabolism in the cell and is sometimes the site for the breaking down of metabolic wastes.