



They are both¹ microscopic. And they can both make us ill.

A **bacterium*** is a live organism, but it's actually only one cell². It can live and reproduce³ anywhere: in the soil⁴, the ocean, and living organisms. But only about 1% of all bacteria can make us ill. Many bacteria are helpful to

our body. They are called "friendly bacteria". We need them to process⁵ our food and to protect⁶ us against other, bad, bacteria. **Some bacteria are different shapes, such as a square or star, but there are three basic bacterial shapes:**

1. Round bacteria

They look like a ball, and they are called cocci*.



Staphylococci

2. Capsule-shaped bacteria

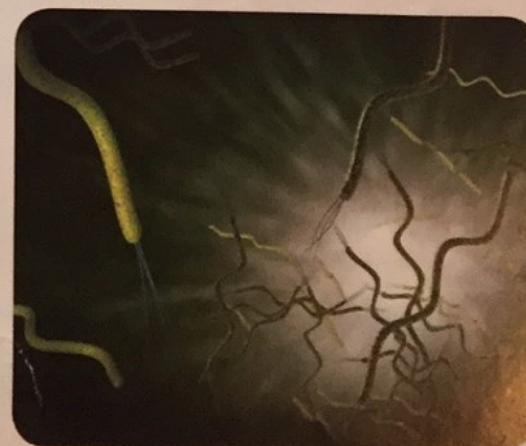
These bacteria are called bacilli.



Lactobacilli

3. Spiral bacteria

They are also called spirilla*.



Spirilla bacteria

When bacteria make us ill, antibiotics help us to get better.

Or Viruses?

Viruses are much smaller** than bacteria (one hundredth*** the size of most bacteria). They are something between living and non-living. They are parasites, and they need a living organism to reproduce – a plant⁷, an animal

or a human. There are so many viruses that scientists can't classify⁸ them. Antibiotics don't fight viruses. People who are ill with a virus must use their immune system to recover⁹.

Here are some examples of viruses:

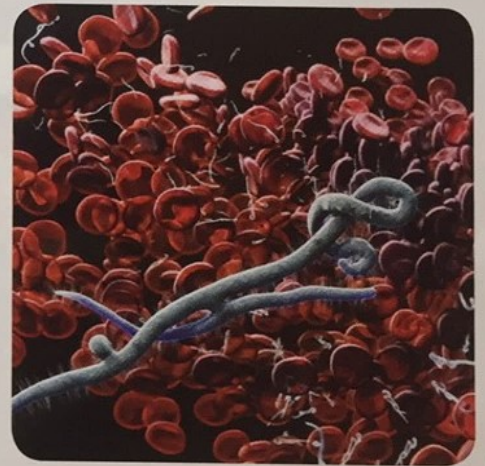
Coronavirus



HIV virus



Ebola virus



▶ TRUE OR FALSE? **T F**

Fill in the box T or F.

- a. You can only see bacteria with a microscope.
- b. You can only see viruses with a microscope.
- c. Staphylococci are a kind of virus.
- d. Antibiotics help to fight viruses.
- e. Viruses are microorganisms.
- f. Bacteria are microorganisms.
- g. Viruses are parasites.
- h. Bacteria are made of one cell.
- i. Viruses are made of one cell.

TASK 1
jump

▶ LANGUAGE NOTE

* **one bacterium** – many bacteria

SINGULAR	PLURAL
bacterium	bacteria
coccus	cocci
bacillus	bacilli
spirillum	spirilla

** small – **smaller** – the smallest

*** **one hundredth** = $\frac{1}{100}$

▶ VOCABULARY

- ¹ **both** [bəʊθ] – oba
- ² **cell** [sel] – buňka
- ³ **to reproduce** [ˌriːprəˈdjuːs] – rozmnožovat se
- ⁴ **soil** [sɔɪl] – půda
- ⁵ **to process** [ˈprəʊses] – zpracovat
- ⁶ **to protect** [prəˈtekt] – chránit
- ⁷ **plant** [plɑːnt] – rostlina
- ⁸ **to classify** [ˈklæsɪfaɪ] – zařadit
- ⁹ **to recover** [rɪˈkʌvə] – zotavit (se)