



Birth Process Vocabulary

afterbirth	Tissues, fluids, and the placenta that passes out of the woman usually after the birth of the baby
amniotic sac	Covering around the fetus; also called the “bag of waters”
breech birth	Baby is born feet first
caesarian birth	Baby is taken through the mother’s abdomen through surgery rather than delivery through the vagina
cervix	The neck of the uterus which has to stretch open during labor (9-10 cm)
embryo	First stage of development of a baby (1st three months)
episiotomy	A surgical operation on a female to make the opening of the vagina larger to avoid tearing during delivery
fertilization	The meeting of sperm and egg meet; also called conception
fetus	Second stage of development of a baby (last six months)
miscarriage	Baby dies inside the mother’s uterus and is passed out early
placenta	Thick-walled circular organ, rich in blood supply connected to the umbilical cord
premature birth	Baby is born early
stillborn	Baby dies during labor and is born dead
umbilical cord	Lifeline from mother to baby that carries food, oxygen, and waste
uterus	Pear-shaped, muscular-walled organ where fetus develops for 9 months
vagina	Birth canal and female sex organ