

## The Cell Song Karaoke: User's Guide

**Introduction (note that if you're already convinced, skip to the next page):** [Cell Song Karaoke](#)? Why in the world would I bother to make such a thing? And why would I expect anyone to use it?

It's all about learning – deep, substantial, permanent learning –informed by insights emerging from cognitive science (explained in the book [Make it Stick](#)). My hypothesis is that

1. If you become familiar with my original [Cell Song](#) and
2. Then try to sing it yourself following the fill-in-the-blanks lyrics on the screen of the [Cell Song, Karaoke Version](#), then
3. Your path to memorizing the material in the song will be much more efficient than just about anything else that you can do.

That's because interacting with the song in this way is *effortful*. This is not an easy task. But if you do the hard work of trying to memorize the lyrics in this guided way, you'll learn a lot about the parts of cells. Fill-in-the-blanks karaoke is going to help you to transfer the information to where you need it: into long term memory, where it will be available for that upcoming discussion session or test.

There are, of course, alternatives to remembering this material. Flashcards are another great way that forces you to recall what you know, and thereby encodes your learning in long-term memory. I have [cell parts tutorials](#) set up for you at my website.

Give it a try. It's going to be difficult. You won't get it right the first time. Keep on going back and forth between the fill-in-the-blank lyrics on the next page, and the original lyrics (with all the blanks filled in) that follow. Eventually, you'll be able to sing the Karaoke version fluently. And my hypothesis is that if you can do that, you'll have learned a lot about cell parts and functions in a fairly permanent way.

Please leave me a comment letting me know what you think.

## The Cell Song, Karaoke Version

View it at [www.sciencemusicvideos.com](http://www.sciencemusicvideos.com)

Glenn Wolkenfeld © 2015

I went into a cell, to get out of the rain,  
And there was the \_\_\_\_\_, the cell \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, and what did I see?  
The \_\_\_\_\_, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, and said "who drives this bus?"  
And found myself talking to the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, to recover from a spasm,  
And found myself swimming in some clear \_\_\_\_\_.

I went into the \_\_\_\_\_ to ask how to get home,  
And got \_\_\_\_\_ info, stored in a \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, and stretching o' so far,  
Was a thin and wavy \_\_\_\_\_, it's called the \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, trying not to be perplexed,  
By the packaging and \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, and said "who makes proteins here?"  
And somebody responded "it's the \_\_\_\_\_, my dear."  
I went into a cell, and was feeling pretty fine,  
'Til a \_\_\_\_\_ engulfed me, and dissolved me in \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a cell, and was feeling pretty nimble,  
'Til a \_\_\_\_\_ lassoed me, tying me up in a \_\_\_\_\_.

I went into a plant cell to see how trees get so tall,  
And all around the outside was a rigid \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a plant cell, "why's it so green I asked?"  
"Cause I make food from \_\_\_\_\_," said a green \_\_\_\_\_.  
I went into a plant cell to see how plant cells store \_\_\_\_\_,  
When a \_\_\_\_\_ informed me that he was the storage dude.

So when you go inside a \_\_\_\_\_, remember what you see,  
There's over a \_\_\_\_\_ cells in both you and me.  
Just sing this song if you ever feel confusion,  
And remember \_\_\_\_\_ transport is the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Cell Song

View it at [www.sciencemusicvideos.com](http://www.sciencemusicvideos.com)

Glenn Wolkenfeld © 2012

I went into a cell, to get out of the rain,  
And there was the gatekeeper, the cell membrane.  
I went into a cell, and what did I see?  
The mitochondria, it's the energy factory.  
I went into a cell, and said "who drives this bus?"  
And found myself talking to the boss, the nucleus.  
I went into a cell, to recover from a spasm,  
And found myself swimming in some clear cytoplasm.

I went into the nucleus to ask how to get home,  
And got genetic info, stored in a chromosome.  
I went into a cell, and stretching o' so far,  
Was a thin and wavy network, it's called the E.R.  
I went into a cell, trying not to be perplexed,  
By the packaging and sorting in the Golgi complex.  
I went into a cell, and said "who makes proteins here?"  
And somebody responded "it's the ribosome, my dear."  
I went into a cell, and was feeling pretty fine,  
'Til a lysosome engulfed me, and dissolved me in enzymes.  
I went into a cell, and was feeling pretty nimble,  
'Til a centriole lassoed me, tying me up in a spindle.

I went into a plant cell to see how trees get so tall,  
And all around the outside was a rigid cell wall.  
I went into a plant cell, "why's it so green I asked?"  
"Cause I make food from sunlight," said a green chloroplast.  
I went into a plant cell to see how plant cells store food,  
When a vacuole informed me that he was the storage dude.

So when you go inside a cell, remember what you see,  
There's over a trillion cells in both you and me.  
Just sing this song if you ever feel confusion,  
And remember active transport is the opposite of diffusion.