

# Reproduction of Cells

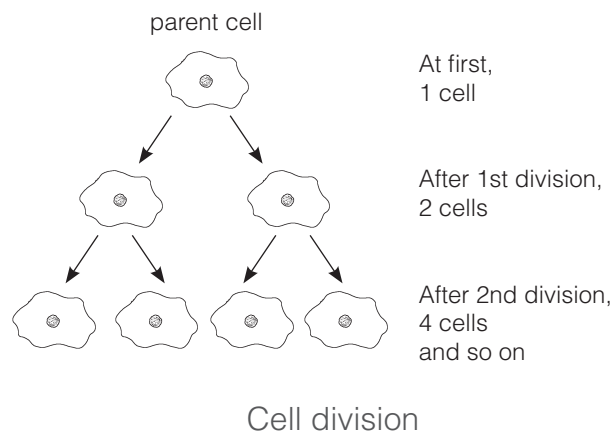
Cells cannot live forever. Although different cells have different lifespans which range from a few days to a few months, all cells will eventually die.

When cells die, new cells have to replace them.

Cells divide to form new cells.

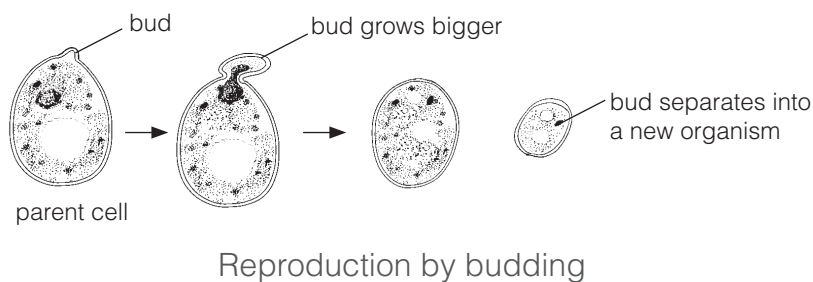
One cell divides into two separate cells. The two cells in turn divide to form four cells and so on. This is known as **cell division**.

Cell division is necessary to **replace new cells** when they are destroyed or damaged. It is also necessary so that the **organisms can grow**.



The newly-divided cells are identical to their parent cells.

Some single-celled organisms such as bacteria and yeast reproduce in a special way. This is known as **budding**.



The parent cell develops a small bud. The bud grows bigger and bigger until it attains the right size. It then breaks away from its parent and forms a new, identical cell.

Although cells normally divide to form new identical cells, sometimes an abnormal division may take place. The cells may divide uncontrollably to form tumours which can then lead to cancer.