

The Cell

Body & health

The organelles inside a human cell and what each does.

The structures visible in a standard animal cell.

Organelle	Does
Nucleus	Holds DNA; directs the cell
Mitochondria	Produces ATP — the energy currency
Ribosomes	Assemble proteins
Endoplasmic reticulum	Transports and folds proteins and lipids
Golgi apparatus	Packages and ships proteins
Lysosomes	Break down waste
Cell membrane	Controls what enters and leaves
Cytoplasm	The fluid everything sits in

Mitochondria carry their own DNA, inherited only from the mother. They were once free-living bacteria.