

# Say It With Dna Protein Synthesis Worksheet Answers

## SAY IT WITH DNA: PROTEIN SYNTHESIS WORKSHEET: Practice Pays

Having studied the process by which DNA directs the synthesis of proteins, you should be ready to decode some DNA "secret" messages. To do this, you must follow the procedure of protein synthesis as this is taking place right now in your cells; no short cuts! Practice these steps by following and finishing the **partially solved message** below.

STEP 1: "Build" the mRNA molecule, matching the RNA nucleotides to the DNA nucleotides properly, letter by letter.

(For purposes of simplicity, it will be assumed that this mRNA is bacterial; there are no introns to cut out!)

STEP 2: Figure out the tRNA triplets (codons) which would fit the mRNA triplets (letter by letter).

STEP 3: Look up each tRNA codon in the **tRNA Dictionary** (below), and find the corresponding symbol and amino acid abbreviation for that codon. Record that one-letter symbol (and its amino acid) below each codon. "Spc" = "space". If you have done this correctly, the symbols should spell out a meaningful message in English.

Remember, C always pairs with G, G always pairs with C, A pairs with T (in DNA) or U (in RNA), T pairs with A, and U (in RNA) pairs with A (in DNA). Clues: C & G are curved letters; A & T are angular; U is used in RNA in place of T.

When you finish the sample message below, decode the special message assigned to you (from the sheet with many messages). Be sure to show the details of your solution on the **Practice Sheet** provided, and hand it in. In your DNA exam, you will be expected to do this from memory (provided with the tRNA Dictionary).

### PARTIALLY SOLVED MESSAGE

**GIVEN: DNA code message** → GAA TAG AAA CTT ACT TAG AGC ATT CCT GCC CTT CGA TGC ATC

**SOLUTION (steps 1-4)**

1. mRNA (built to match the DNA message, letter for letter) →



CUU AUC UUU GAA UGA AUC UCG ... ..

2. tRNA (determined by matching letters (bases) with those in mRNA) →



GAA UAG AAA CUU ACU UAG

3. Amino acids carried by each tRNA (according to dictionary; below) →

L I P G I  
e s h l s  
u o e u o

4. Symbols of amino acids → L I P E I

### DICTIONARY OF tRNA CODONS & THEIR AMINO ACIDS (SYMBOLS & ABBREVIATIONS)

tRNA	sym	AA	tRNA	sym	AA	tRNA	sym	AA	tRNA	sym	AA
AAA	F	Phe	CAA	V	Val	GAA	L	Leu	UAA	I	Iso
AAC	L	Leu	CAC	V	Val	GAC	L	Leu	UAC	M	Met
AAG	F	Phe	CAG	V	Val	GAG	L	Leu	UAG	I	Iso
AAU	L	Leu	CAU	V	Val	GAU	L	Leu	UAU	I	Iso
ACA	C	Cys	CCA	G	Gly	GCA	R	Arg	UCA	S	Ser
ACC	W	Trp	CCC	G	Gly	GCC	R	Arg	UCC	R	Arg
ACG	C	Cys	CCG	G	Gly	GCG	R	Arg	UCG	S	Ser
ACU	-	spc	CCU	G	Gly	GCU	R	Arg	UCU	R	Arg
AGA	S	Ser	CGA	A	Ala	GGA	P	Pro	UGA	T	Thr
AGC	S	Ser	CGC	A	Ala	GGC	P	Pro	UGC	T	Thr
AGG	S	Ser	CGG	A	Ala	GGG	P	Pro	UGG	T	Thr
AGU	S	Ser	CGU	A	Ala	GGU	P	Pro	UGU	T	Thr
AUA	Y	Tyr	CUA	D	Asp	GUA	H	His	UUA	N	Asn
AUC	-	spc	CUC	E	Glu	GUC	Q	Glu	UUC	K	Lys
AUG	Y	Tyr	CUG	D	Asp	GUG	H	His	UUG	N	Asn
AUU	-	spc	CUU	E	Glu	GUU	Q	Glu	UUU	K	Lys

Say it with DNA protein synthesis worksheet answers are essential for students and educators alike, as they provide insights into the intricate processes that govern how genetic information is translated into functional proteins. Understanding protein synthesis is a fundamental aspect of molecular biology and genetics, crucial for anyone studying life sciences. This article will explore the key concepts behind DNA and protein synthesis, the importance of worksheets in learning these concepts, and provide a detailed guide to typical questions and answers found in protein synthesis worksheets.

# Understanding DNA and Protein Synthesis

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the hereditary material in all living organisms. It contains the instructions needed for an organism to develop, survive, and reproduce. Protein synthesis is the process through which cells create proteins, which perform a vast array of functions within the body. The process of protein synthesis can be broken down into two main stages: transcription and translation.

## The Stages of Protein Synthesis

### 1. Transcription:

- This phase occurs in the nucleus of eukaryotic cells.
- During transcription, a specific segment of DNA is copied into messenger RNA (mRNA).
- The enzyme RNA polymerase binds to the DNA at the gene's promoter region and unwinds the DNA strands.
- RNA nucleotides pair with the DNA template strand, synthesizing a single strand of mRNA.

### 2. Translation:

- Translation takes place in the cytoplasm, where ribosomes facilitate the process.
- The mRNA strand is read in sets of three nucleotides, called codons.
- Each codon corresponds to a specific amino acid, which are the building blocks of proteins.
- Transfer RNA (tRNA) molecules bring the appropriate amino acids to the ribosome, matching their anticodons with the mRNA codons.
- The ribosome catalyzes the formation of peptide bonds between amino acids, creating a polypeptide chain that will fold into a functional protein.

## The Importance of Worksheets in Learning Protein Synthesis

Worksheets are invaluable educational tools that help reinforce the concepts of protein synthesis. They provide structured activities that guide students through the complexities of the processes involved, allowing them to apply what they have learned in a hands-on manner. Here are some key benefits of using worksheets in this context:

- Reinforcement of Knowledge: Worksheets encourage active learning by requiring students to recall and apply information.
- Assessment of Understanding: Teachers can assess students' comprehension through answers provided in worksheets.
- Encouragement of Critical Thinking: Worksheets often include questions that

require analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, promoting deeper understanding.

- Preparation for Exams: Working through worksheet problems can help students prepare for tests on DNA and protein synthesis.

## **Common Questions Found in Protein Synthesis Worksheets**

When working on protein synthesis worksheets, students may encounter various types of questions. Here's a list of common questions, along with their answers:

### **1. What is the role of DNA in protein synthesis?**

- Answer: DNA serves as the blueprint for protein synthesis. It contains the genetic instructions for building proteins, which are executed during transcription and translation.

### **2. Explain the difference between transcription and translation.**

- Answer: Transcription is the process of copying a segment of DNA into mRNA, while translation is the process of decoding the mRNA to assemble amino acids into a protein.

### **3. What is the function of mRNA?**

- Answer: mRNA (messenger RNA) carries the genetic information from the DNA in the nucleus to the ribosomes in the cytoplasm, where protein synthesis occurs.

### **4. How do tRNA molecules function during translation?**

- Answer: tRNA (transfer RNA) molecules transport specific amino acids to the ribosome. Each tRNA has an anticodon that matches a codon on the mRNA, ensuring the correct amino acid is added to the growing polypeptide chain.

### **5. What are codons and why are they important?**

- Answer: Codons are sequences of three nucleotides on mRNA that correspond to specific amino acids. They are crucial because they dictate the order in which amino acids are added during protein synthesis.

## 6. Describe the role of ribosomes in protein synthesis.

- Answer: Ribosomes are the cellular machinery that facilitates the translation process. They read the mRNA sequence and ensure the correct tRNA molecules bring the appropriate amino acids, linking them together to form a protein.

## Tips for Completing Protein Synthesis Worksheets

To maximize learning when completing protein synthesis worksheets, consider the following tips:

- **Review Key Terms:** Familiarize yourself with essential vocabulary such as transcription, translation, mRNA, tRNA, ribosomes, and codons.
- **Understand the Flow of Information:** Remember the central dogma of molecular biology: DNA → RNA → Protein. This flow will help you answer questions related to the processes involved.
- **Practice Drawing Diagrams:** Visual aids like diagrams of the transcription and translation processes can help solidify your understanding.
- **Work with Peers:** Collaborating with classmates can provide new insights and reinforce your understanding of the material.
- **Use Additional Resources:** Don't hesitate to consult textbooks, online tutorials, or educational videos for clarification on complex topics.

## Conclusion

In summary, **say it with DNA protein synthesis worksheet answers** provide a vital resource for students learning about the mechanisms of protein synthesis. Through understanding the processes of transcription and translation, students gain insights into the foundational concepts of genetics and molecular biology. Worksheets serve as effective tools for reinforcing knowledge, assessing understanding, and preparing for academic assessments. By engaging with these resources and employing effective study strategies, students can develop a strong grasp of protein synthesis and its significance in the biological sciences.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the primary purpose of the 'Say It with DNA' protein synthesis worksheet?**

The primary purpose of the worksheet is to help students understand the process of protein synthesis, including transcription and translation, by using DNA sequences.

### **How does transcription differ from translation in the context of protein synthesis?**

Transcription is the process of converting DNA into messenger RNA (mRNA), while translation is the process of reading the mRNA to synthesize proteins.

### **What role do ribosomes play in protein synthesis as outlined in the worksheet?**

Ribosomes are the cellular machinery that reads the mRNA sequence and assembles amino acids into a polypeptide chain, effectively synthesizing proteins.

### **Can you explain the significance of codons in the protein synthesis process?**

Codons are sequences of three nucleotide bases in mRNA that correspond to specific amino acids, guiding the assembly of the protein during translation.

### **What educational level is the 'Say It with DNA' protein synthesis worksheet aimed at?**

The worksheet is typically aimed at high school students or introductory college courses that cover molecular biology and genetics.

### **How can educators effectively use the 'Say It with DNA' worksheet in their teaching?**

Educators can use the worksheet as a hands-on activity to reinforce theoretical concepts, encourage collaborative learning, and assess student understanding of protein synthesis.

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