

# What is the primary function of white blood cells?

- A. Transport oxygen
- B. Clot blood
- C. Fight infection
- D. All of the above

Show Answer...

**Correct Answer: C (Fight infection)**

## Explanation:

The primary function of white blood cells, also known as leukocytes, is to fight infections. They do this by attacking and destroying the organisms that cause disease. There are several types of white blood cells, each with its own role in defending the body against pathogens.

## White Blood Cells and Their Function

### The Role of White Blood Cells

White blood cells are a critical component of the immune system. They are formed in the bone marrow and are found throughout the body, including in the blood and lymphatic system. Their primary role is to protect the body against both infectious disease and foreign invaders. Different types of white blood cells carry out different tasks, but all work together to fight infections and diseases.

### Types of White Blood Cells

There are several types of white blood cells, each with its specific role. These include neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, and basophils. Neutrophils are the most common type of white blood cells and are the first to respond to a site of infection. Lymphocytes, including B cells and T cells, are responsible for adaptive immunity, allowing the body to remember and recognize

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previous invaders. Monocytes, eosinophils, and basophils also play essential roles in the body's immune response.

- **Neutrophils:** These are the most common type of white blood cells and are the body's first line of defense against infection. They kill and digest bacteria and fungi, preventing these organisms from causing disease.
- **Lymphocytes:** They are responsible for immune memory and help the body recognize and respond to pathogens it has encountered before. There are two types of lymphocytes: B cells, which produce antibodies that attack bacteria and toxins, and T cells, which attack body cells themselves when they have been taken over by viruses or have become cancerous.
- **Monocytes:** They have a longer lifespan than many white blood cells and help to break down bacteria.
- **Eosinophils:** They combat multicellular parasites and certain infections in vertebrates.
- **Basophils:** These are the least common type of white blood cell, but they're responsible for inflammatory reactions during an immune response. They can also help to prevent blood clotting by secreting heparin, a natural anticoagulant.

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