

Biotechnology English Jargon Quick Reference

Field-specific terms, contrast pairs, and high-pressure sentence frames

Audience: biotech scientists, translational researchers, assay-development teams, platform teams, program managers, alliance managers, business-development staff, and biotech executives

Focus: A high-level biotechnology English curriculum for platform science, assay design, translational evidence, biomarkers, IP, partnerships, investor updates, regulatory-adjacent planning, and scientific-business dialogue.

Designed for advanced ESL learners who already use professional English and need industry-specific terminology, realistic meetings, role-play pressure, careful pushback, and polished workplace outputs.

Teaching stance: this is language and workplace-communication training, not legal, medical, financial, safety, or regulatory advice. Instructors should connect every scenario to the learner's current company policies, local rules, and approved procedures.

Nomenclature and Jargon

These are classroom working definitions. Learners should adapt wording to their organization's policies, systems, and local regulatory environment.

Platform Technology and Scientific Thesis

Term	Working meaning
platform	Working biotechnology term used in platform technology and scientific thesis; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
modality	Working biotechnology term used in platform technology and scientific thesis; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
proof of concept	Working biotechnology term used in platform technology and scientific thesis; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
translatability	Working biotechnology term used in platform technology and scientific thesis; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Assay Development and Reproducibility

Term	Working meaning
assay	Working biotechnology term used in assay development and reproducibility; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
sensitivity	Working biotechnology term used in assay development and reproducibility; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
specificity	Working biotechnology term used in assay development and reproducibility; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
reproducibility	Working biotechnology term used in assay development and reproducibility; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Biomarkers and Translational Strategy

Term	Working meaning
biomarker	Working biotechnology term used in biomarkers and translational strategy; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
patient stratification	Working biotechnology term used in biomarkers and translational strategy; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
surrogate endpoint	Working biotechnology term used in biomarkers and translational strategy; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
validation	Working biotechnology term used in biomarkers and translational strategy; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Preclinical Data Packages

Term	Working meaning
in vitro	Working biotechnology term used in preclinical data packages; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
in vivo	Working biotechnology term used in preclinical data packages; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Term	Working meaning
toxicity	Working biotechnology term used in preclinical data packages; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
safety margin	Working biotechnology term used in preclinical data packages; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

CMC and Scale-Up in Biotech

Term	Working meaning
CMC	Working biotechnology term used in cmc and scale-up in biotech; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
yield	Working biotechnology term used in cmc and scale-up in biotech; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
comparability	Working biotechnology term used in cmc and scale-up in biotech; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
tech transfer	Working biotechnology term used in cmc and scale-up in biotech; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

IP, Freedom to Operate, and Collaboration

Term	Working meaning
IP	Working biotechnology term used in ip, freedom to operate, and collaboration; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
freedom to operate	Working biotechnology term used in ip, freedom to operate, and collaboration; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
material transfer agreement	Working biotechnology term used in ip, freedom to operate, and collaboration; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
publication rights	Working biotechnology term used in ip, freedom to operate, and collaboration; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Investor and Board Updates

Term	Working meaning
milestone	Working biotechnology term used in investor and board updates; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
runway	Working biotechnology term used in investor and board updates; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
inflection point	Working biotechnology term used in investor and board updates; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
risk mitigation	Working biotechnology term used in investor and board updates; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Partnering and Business Development

Term	Working meaning
term sheet	Working biotechnology term used in partnering and business development; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.

Term	Working meaning
option	Working biotechnology term used in partnering and business development; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
exclusivity	Working biotechnology term used in partnering and business development; define the owner, evidence source, governing document, risk, and decision impact before using it in a meeting.
due diligence	Structured review of facts, risks, financials, operations, obligations, or claims before a decision.

Industry-Specific Meeting Moves

Situation	Useful language
Platform Technology and Scientific Thesis	Before we commit, I want to confirm platform, modality, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If the evidence supports specific models and indications, not every future use case., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
Assay Development and Reproducibility	Before we commit, I want to confirm assay, sensitivity, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If precision, sensitivity, specificity, controls, and reproducibility need review., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
Biomarkers and Translational Strategy	Before we commit, I want to confirm biomarker, patient stratification, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If biological plausibility, patient relevance, and validation status are different., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
Preclinical Data Packages	Before we commit, I want to confirm in vitro, in vivo, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If model relevance, dose, exposure, safety margin, and limitations must be named., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
CMC and Scale-Up in Biotech	Before we commit, I want to confirm CMC, yield, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If yield, process control, comparability, and supply-chain risk are unresolved., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
IP, Freedom to Operate, and Collaboration	Before we commit, I want to confirm IP, freedom to operate, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If confidentiality, background ip, publication rights, and freedom to operate matter., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
Investor and Board Updates	Before we commit, I want to confirm milestone, runway, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If credibility requires clear milestones, risks, assumptions, and mitigation., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.
Partnering and Business Development	Before we commit, I want to confirm term sheet, option, the owner, and the evidence behind the decision. If diligence, territory, field, economics, governance, and data rights need definition., I recommend we document the risk and agree on the next step.

High-pressure pushback frames

- I understand the urgency. The risk is that we move faster than the evidence or process supports.
- I am not blocking the goal. I am naming the condition we need before the decision is safe and credible.
- If we accept this risk, we should name the owner, document the assumption, and define the trigger for escalation.
- That may be possible, but not under the current scope, timeline, or approval path.
- Let's separate what we know, what we assume, and what still needs confirmation.

Contrast Pairs

Do not confuse	Useful distinction
platform vs translatability	In platform technology and scientific thesis, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
assay vs reproducibility	In assay development and reproducibility, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
biomarker vs validation	In biomarkers and translational strategy, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
in vitro vs safety margin	In preclinical data packages, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
CMC vs tech transfer	In cmc and scale-up in biotech, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
IP vs publication rights	In ip, freedom to operate, and collaboration, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
milestone vs risk mitigation	In investor and board updates, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.
term sheet vs due diligence	In partnering and business development, define whether the discussion is about the current fact pattern, the controlling process, the stakeholder pressure, or the final decision.