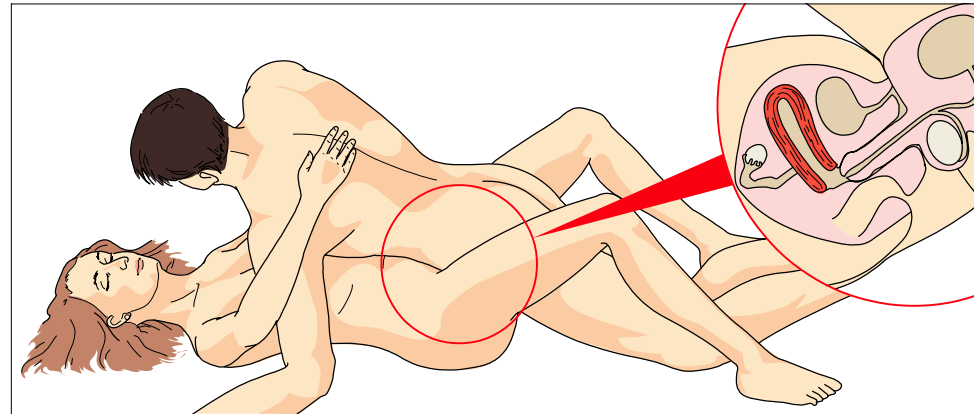


### How does sexual intercourse produce a baby?

There are many forms of love. A special love between a man and a woman can lead to marriage. Men and women often show that they love each other by having sexual intercourse, also called 'having sex' or 'making love'.

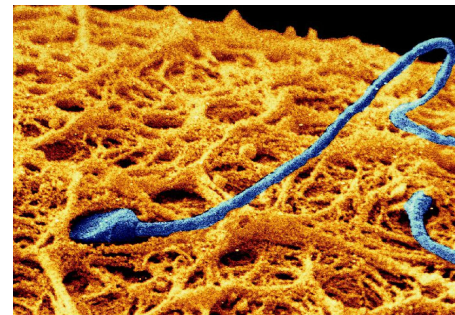


Before sex, the woman becomes excited and her vagina becomes moist. The man also becomes excited and his penis fills with blood. This makes the penis stiff and erect (an **erection**). The penis is inserted into the vagina and the man moves it backwards and forwards. Eventually semen is pumped out into the top of the vagina. This is called **ejaculation**.



- 1 What fills the penis to make it stiff and erect?
- 2 What is ejaculation?

The semen is sucked up through the cervix. Small movements of the uterus wall carry it up to the oviducts. Here, the sperm cells start to swim up the oviducts. If a sperm cell meets an egg cell, the sperm burrows into it and **fertilises** it. In fertilisation, the nucleus of the sperm cell joins with the nucleus of the egg cell. Each nucleus contains half the instructions for a new human and so the baby will have features from both its mother and its father.



A sperm burrowing into an egg cell (magnification of  $\times 4000$ ).



- 3 What is fertilisation?