

# VENOM

## THERE ARE 3 MAIN TYPES OF SNAKE VENOM

### CYTOTOXIC VENOM



Destroys cells.

Acts quickly.

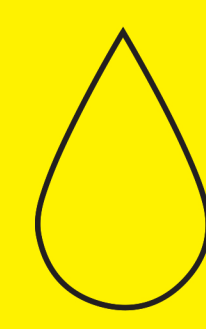
Bites are very painful.

Found in snakes that have **front-hinged fangs:**

- Adders like Puff adders;
- Night adders
- Stiletto snakes.



### HAEMOTOXIC VENOM



Stops blood from clotting.  
Causes internal bleeding.

Acts slower than neurotoxin.

Bites are least painful.

Found in snakes that have **rear-fangs:**

- Boomslang
- Vine snake.



### NEUROTOXIC VENOM



Attacks the nervous system.  
Without treatment, paralysis or death may occur.

Very fast acting.

Bites are painful.

Found in snakes that have **front-fixed fangs:**

- Cobras\*
- Mambas



\* Spitting cobras are an exception. They have front-fixed fangs and cytotoxic venom.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Fangs are specialised teeth that have channels or grooves for delivering venom.
  - Most snakes have teeth, not all snakes have fangs.
- Non-venomous snakes kill their prey by constricting them.

## VENOM VS POISON

### VENOM IS ALWAYS INJECTED

Every venomous animal can inject toxins directly into another animal (e.g stings, fangs, etc.)



### POISON IS ABSORBED OR SWALLOWED

A poisonous plant or animal can only deliver toxic chemicals if another animal touches or eats it.

## UNDERSTANDING THE LABELS

### VENOM



Bites can be deadly to humans and animals.



Bites not usually life-threatening to humans, but will affect their prey animals.



Bites not life-threatening to anything.

### POISON



Poison can be deadly to humans and animals.



Harmless to humans and animals.



# From Fear to Fascination