

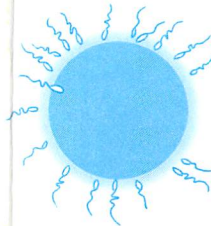
Here's how the Pill works:

There are two basic types of pills—combination pills and Mini-pills, which both work in the same manner.

Both pills act to prevent the release of an egg from the ovary (ovulation). However, women can and do experience breakthrough ovulation—meaning that an egg is released from the ovary and is available to be fertilized by the sperm.

Scientists have confirmed that at the moment the sperm and the egg join (fertilization), a new human life is created, and is completely different from his/her mother.

Both types of pills also cause the cervical mucus to thicken, making it difficult for the sperm to reach the egg. It is possible, though, for the sperm to break through the mucus and to fertilize the egg.



If the egg is fertilized ...



Your eye color, hair color, personality type—everything about you was decided at the very moment when your father's sperm united with your mother's egg (fertilization).

Both types of pills change the lining of the uterus. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the five- to seven-day-old baby to attach to the lining of the uterus, where it would receive the nourishment needed to grow. If the baby does not successfully attach to the lining of the uterus, he/she dies and is expelled from the body during menstruation. This process is known as a chemical abortion and is why the Pill is referred to as an abortifacient.



The lower the dosage of the pill, the more likely it is to work by causing a chemical abortion. Other birth control methods that cause chemical abortions (abortifacients): Norplant, Depo-Provera, the IUD, and "emergency" contraception.

Definitions:

Fertilization

(also known as conception) union of a sperm and egg resulting in the creation of a baby

Implantation

attachment of the baby (now five to seven days old) to the lining of his/her mother's uterus

Pregnancy

nine-month journey that begins at fertilization

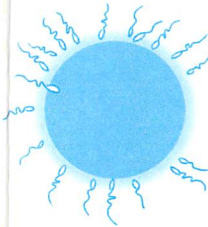
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