



Chromosomal Aberrations

Lecture Book 4
PG 39

What you have learnt ...

- 15(h)
Describe mutation as a change in the structure of a gene such as in sickle cell anaemia, or in the **chromosome number**, such as the 47 chromosomes in the condition known as **Down syndrome**

BIOLOGY
GCE Ordinary Level (2016)
(Syllabus 5158)

Learning Objectives

- 2(d)

Explain what is meant by the terms gene mutation and chromosomal aberration.

*For chromosomal aberration, knowledge of **numerical aberration** (including aneuploidy, as in the case of trisomy 21, i.e. Down syndrome) and **structural aberration** (including translocation, duplication, inversion and deletion) is required.*

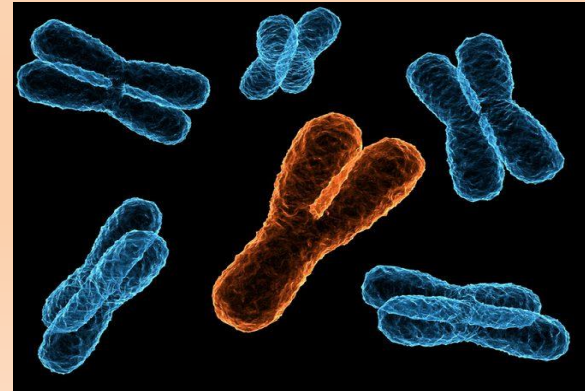
(iii) Nature of mutations?

Mutations

Gene mutation
(new alleles of a gene formed)



Chromosomal Aberration
(Change in number of copies of existing alleles OR reshuffling of existing alleles)



Chromosomal aberration

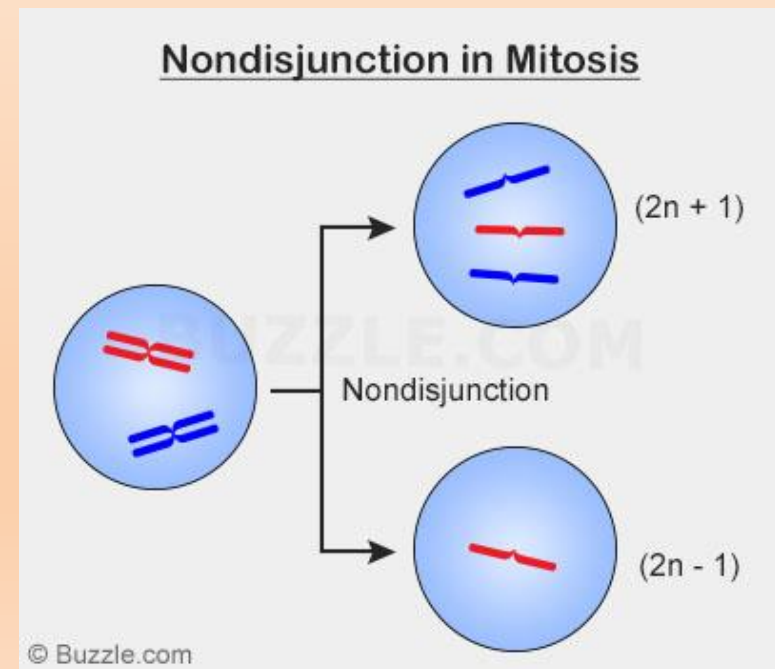
- A change in the number or structure of chromosomes
- Several gene loci are involved

Causes of chromosomal aberration

- Errors in nuclear division in **mitosis** and **meiosis**:

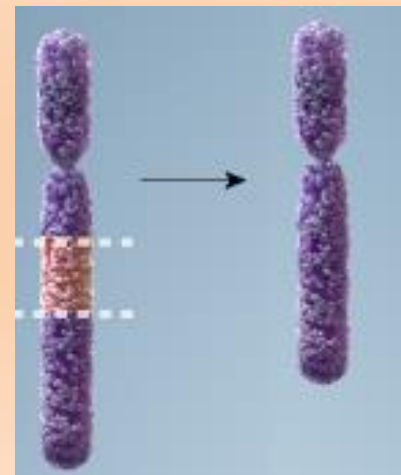
1. **Non-disjunction** in mitosis or meiosis leads to a change in the number of chromosomes
(**Numerical aberration**)

Failure of one of more pairs of homologous chromosomes or sister chromatids to separate normally during nuclear division,
=> **Abnormal distribution of chromosomes** in daughter nuclei

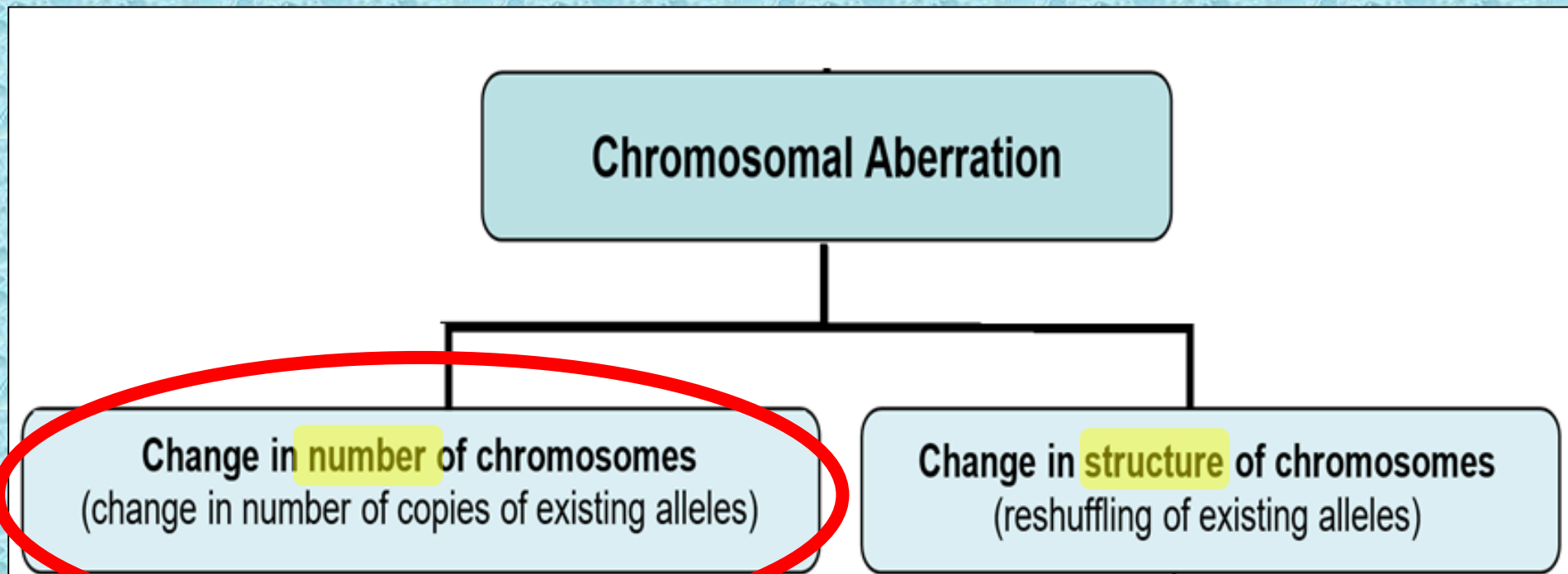


Causes of chromosomal aberration

- **Errors in nuclear division**, i.e. in mitosis and meiosis:
 - 2. **Chromosomal breaks** that occur during mitosis or meiosis resulting in **deletion, duplication, inversion** or **translocation** of chromosomal segments
 - leads to a change in the structure of chromosome
(Structural aberration)



Types of Chromosomal Aberration



[A] Change in number of chromosomes

Caused by **Non-disjunction**

Failure to separate

failure of **sister chromatids** to separate

during

anaphase
in mitosis

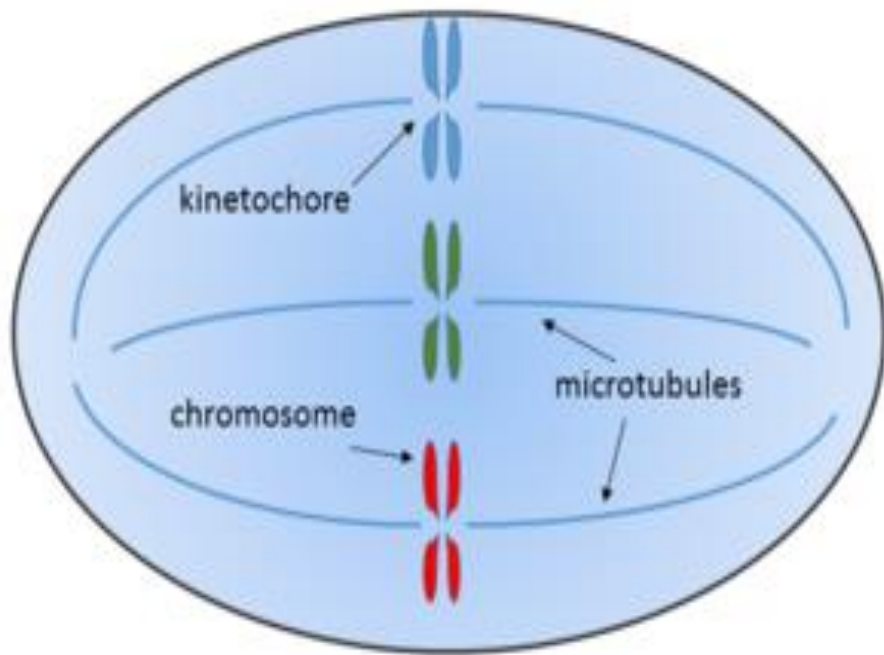
failure of **homologous chromosomes** to separate

anaphase I
in meiosis

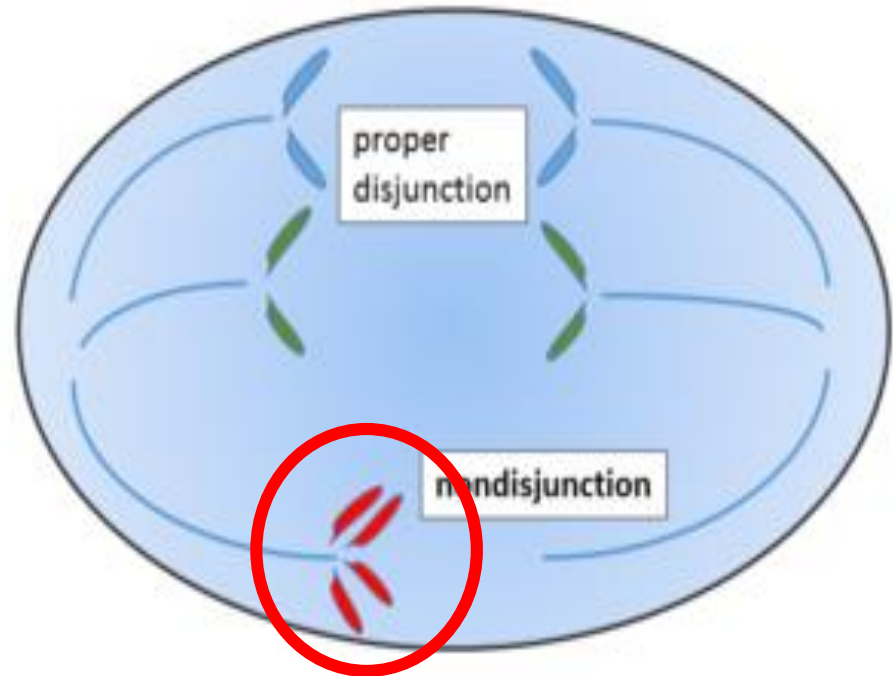
failure of **chromatids*** to separate

anaphase II
in meiosis

Nondisjunction in Mitosis

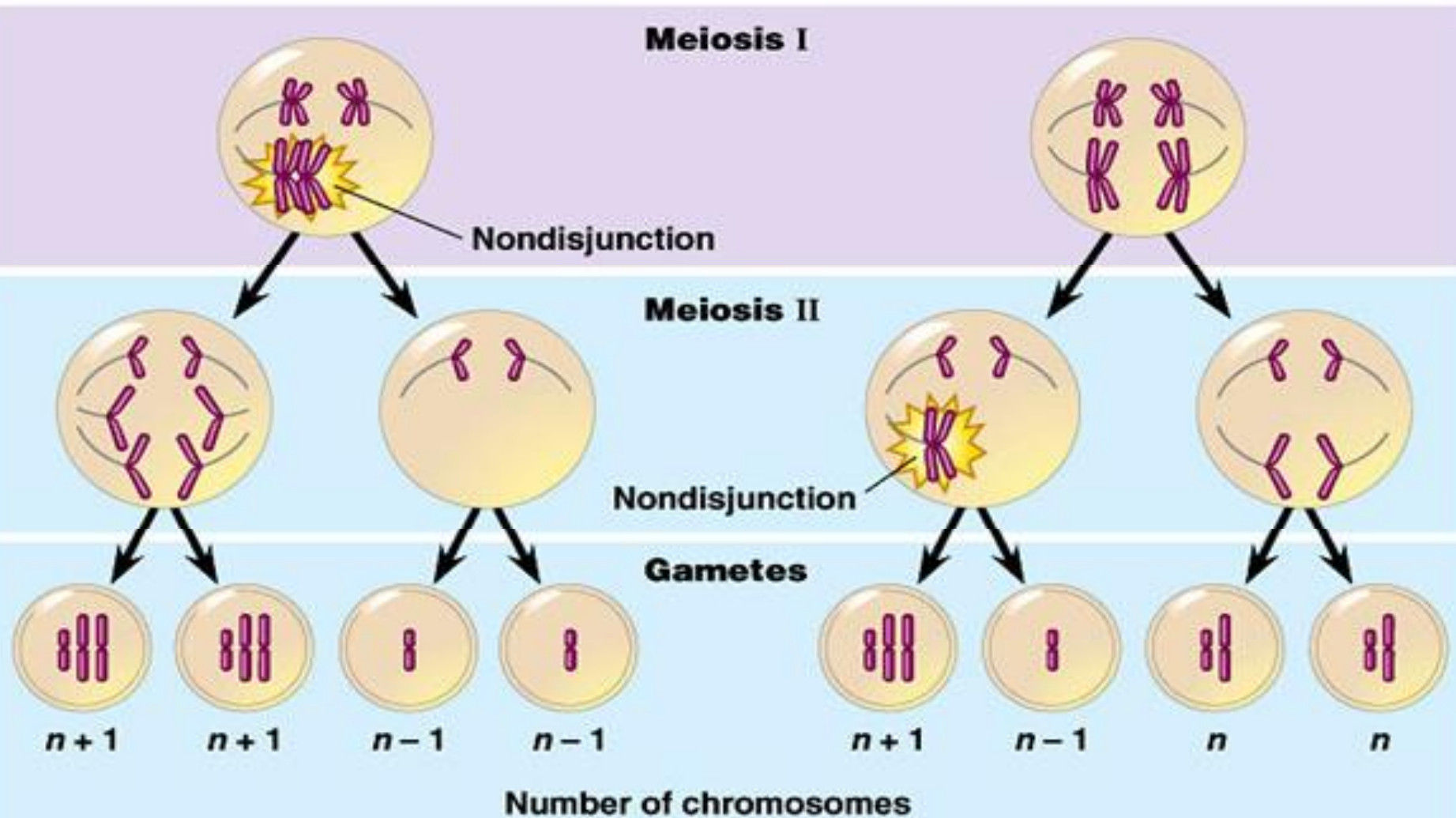


metaphase



anaphase

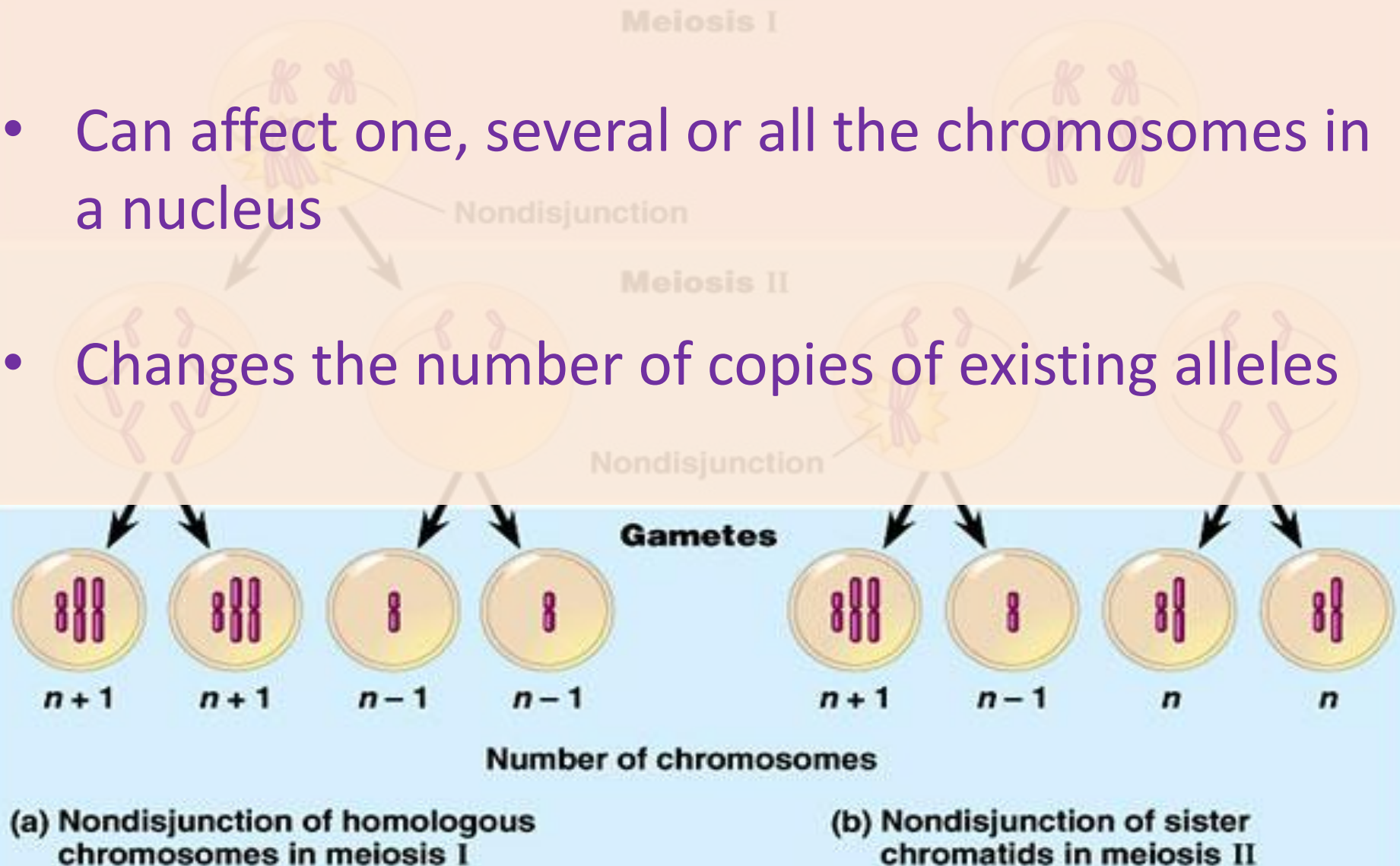
Nondisjunction in Meiosis



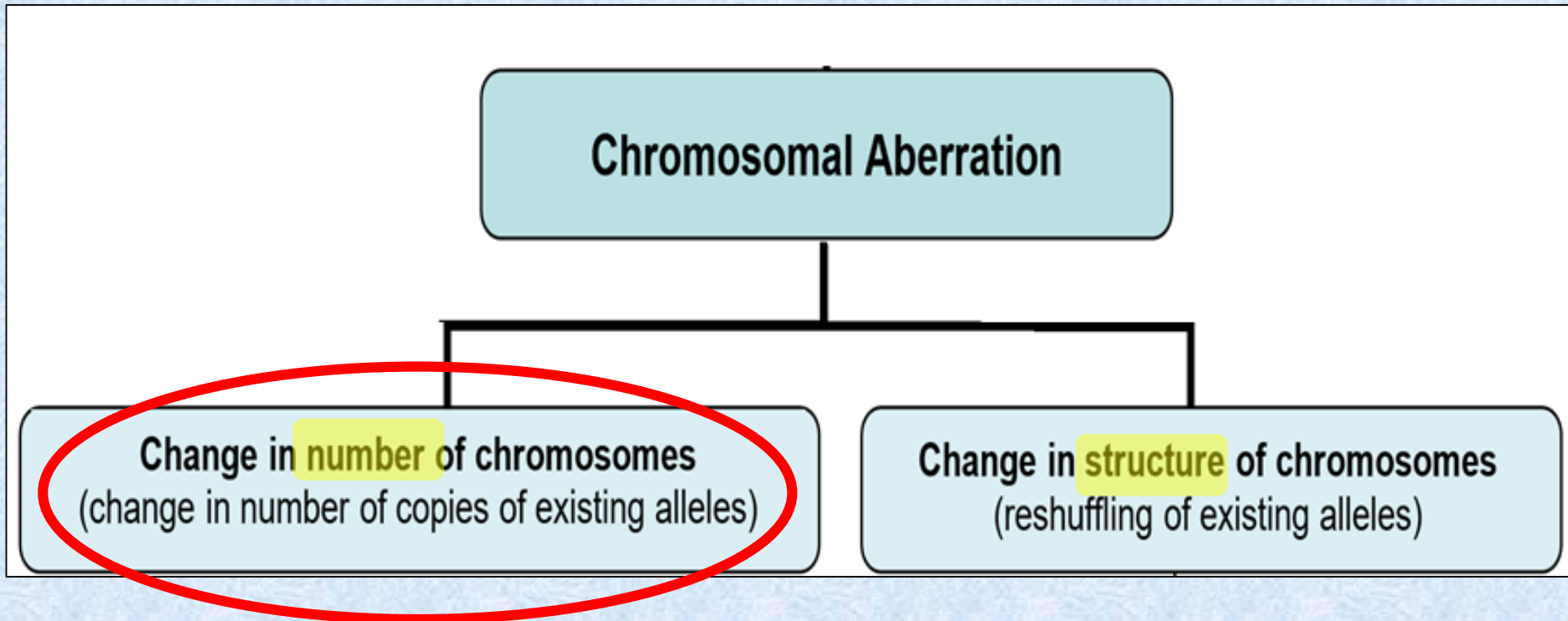
(a) Nondisjunction of homologous chromosomes in meiosis I

Nondisjunction in Meiosis

- Can affect one, several or all the chromosomes in a nucleus
- Changes the number of copies of existing alleles



Types of Chromosomal Aberration



I. Aneuploidy

II. Polyploidy

I) Aneuploidy

- is a condition when there is / are **one or several chromosomes less or more than the diploid number of chromosomes** in the nucleus of a **somatic cell**.
- denoted as :
 - $2n - 1$ (1 chromosome less than diploid number),
 - $2n + 1$ (1 chromosome more than diploid number)
 - $2n - 2$ (2 chromosomes less than diploid number)
 - $2n + 2$ (2 chromosomes more than diploid number) etc...

Note: ' **± 2** ' = 2 non-disjunction events had occurred simultaneously for different chromosomes

I) Aneuploidy

- Occurs when there is **loss or gain** of one or several chromosome(s) in cells after non-disjunction events

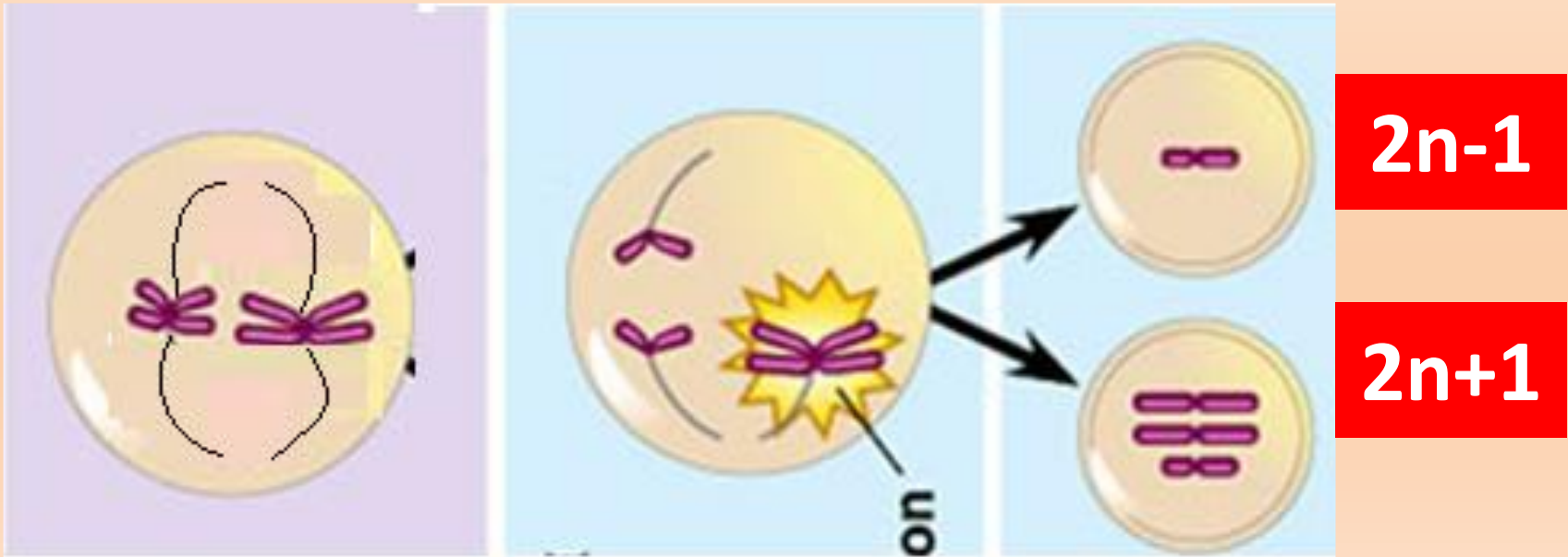
I) Aneuploidy

- *Non-disjunction events that result in aneuploidy are:*
 1. Failure of sister chromatids of **one or several** chromosomes to separate during **anaphase in mitosis**
 2. Failure of **one or several** pairs of homologous chromosomes to separate during **anaphase I in meiosis**
 3. Failure of chromatids of **one or several** chromosomes to separate during **anaphase II in meiosis**

I) Aneuploidy

- *For (1):*
 1. Aneuploid daughter cells end up with $(2n+1)$ and $(2n-1)$ chromosomes.

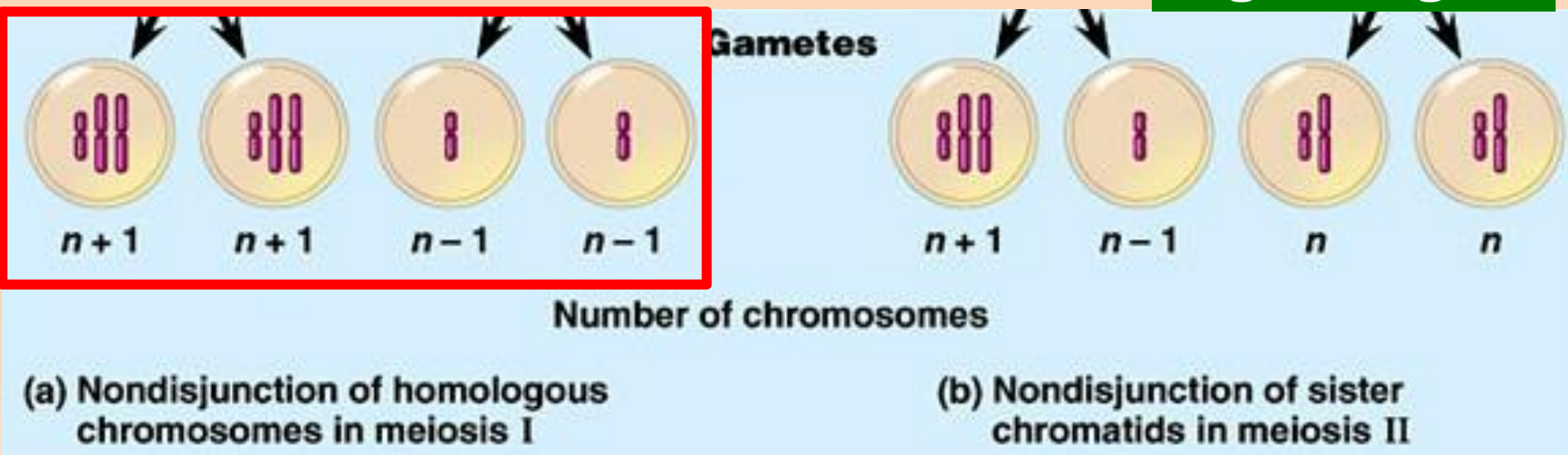
**Aneuploid
daughter cells**



I) Aneuploidy

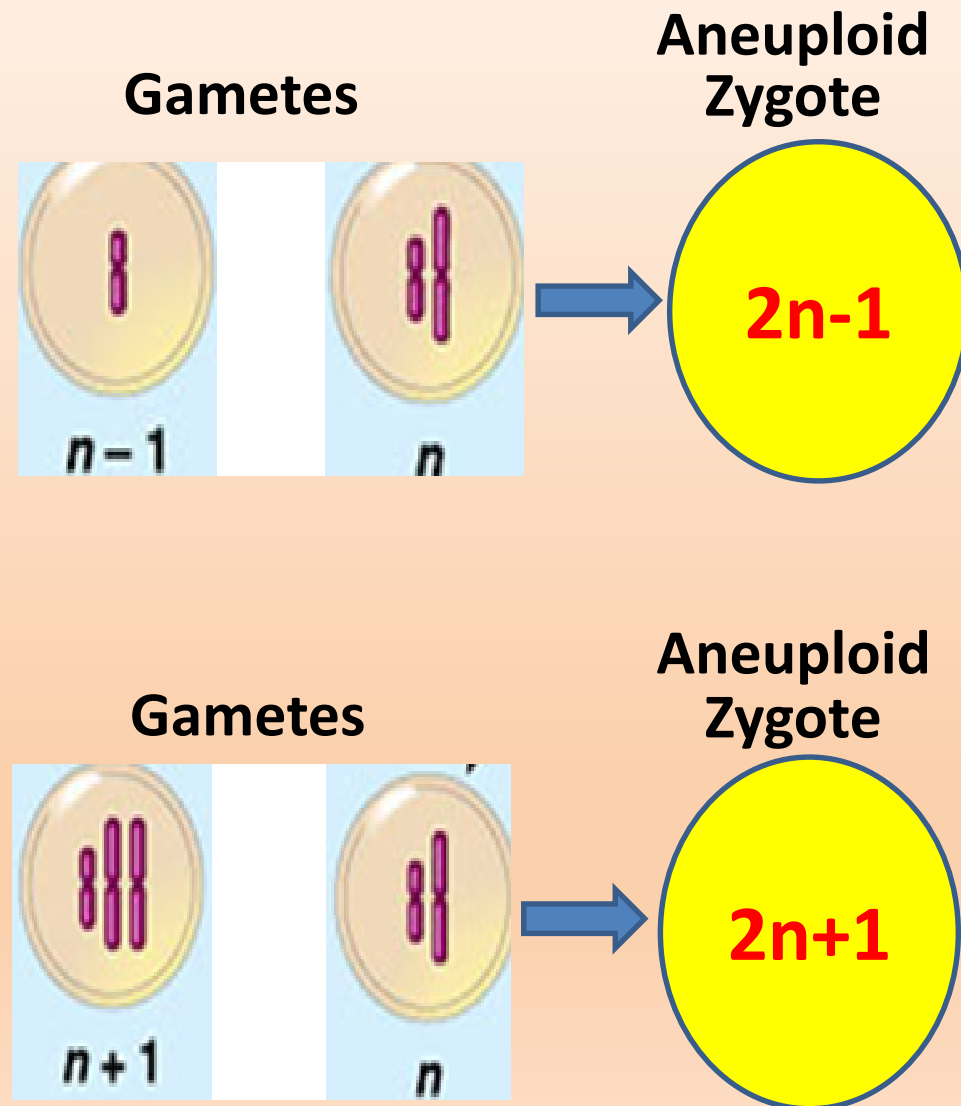
- For (2) & (3):
 - 50% of gametes formed have $(n+1)$ & 50% of gametes have $(n-1)$
 - 25% of gametes have $(n+1)$, 25% have $(n-1)$, 50% has (n)

Fig on Pg 41



I) Aneuploidy

Subsequent **fusion** of a **normal** haploid gamete with a gamete carrying $(n - 1)$ OR $(n + 1)$ chromosomes would lead to **all the cells** in the offspring being **aneuploid**.



E.g. of abnormalities due to aneuploidy

Down's syndrome (Trisomy 21)

For additional information

- Klinefelter's syndrome
- Turner's syndrome

Down's syndrome

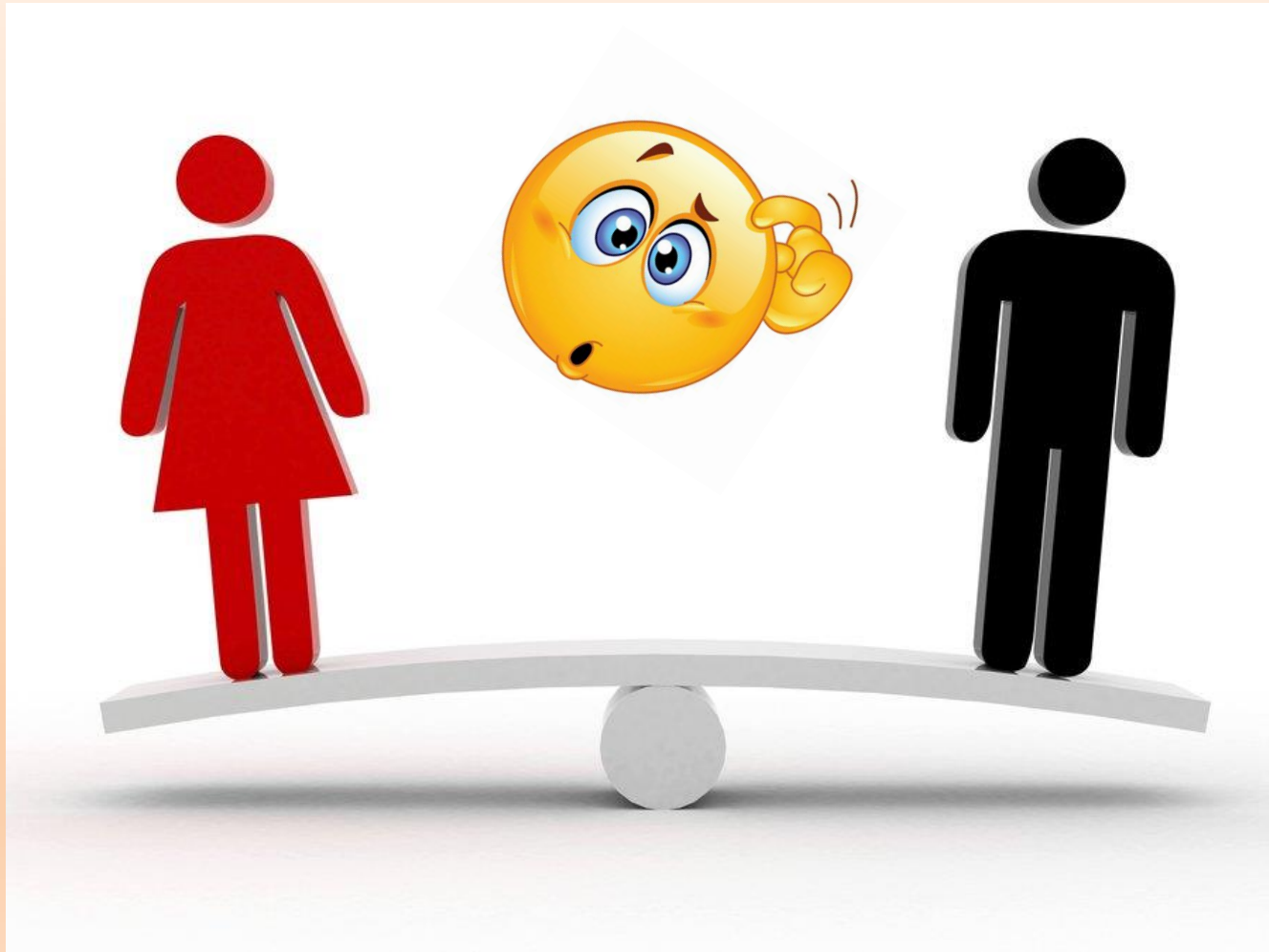


Down's syndrome

- Extra chromosome 21 (trisomy = three chromosome 21)
- Total number of chromosomes in a somatic cell of this affected person is $2n+1 = \underline{47}$
- Commonly due to non-disjunction in **Anaphase** of **Meiosis I**

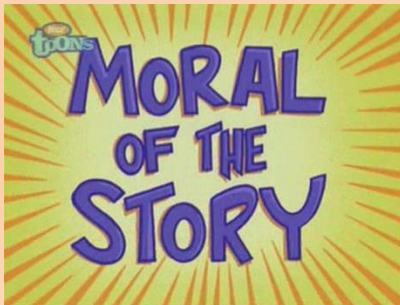


Cause: Mom or Dad?



Down's syndrome

- Occurrence of trisomy 21 is highly correlated with the **age** of the **mother**.
- The probability of bearing a child with trisomy 21 **increases exponentially** with age.



Age of mother	Risk of baby with Down Syndrome
20	1 in 1667
25	1 in 1250
30	1 in 952
35	1 in 250
37	1 in 224
39	1 in 136
40	1 in 100
42	1 in 63
45	1 in 30

Down's syndrome

- Characteristic facial features, short stature, heart defects
- **Susceptibility to respiratory infection, and mental retardation**
- Greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and leukaemia

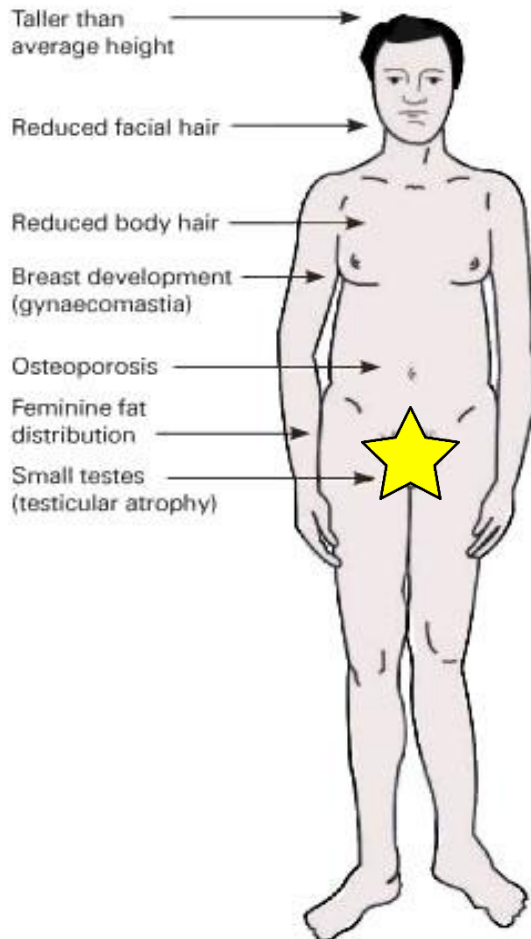
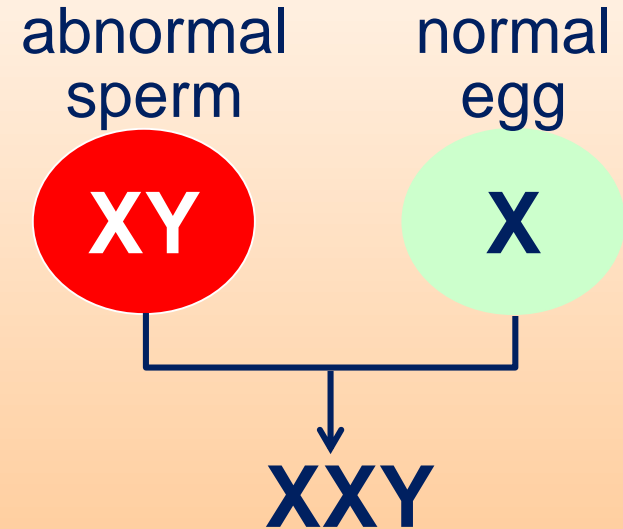


Video: Down Syndrome

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA0qxrR2oOk>

Klinefelter's syndrome

- **MALE** with extra X chromosome (XXY)
- rare cases – XXXY, XXXXY



Detection by karyogram

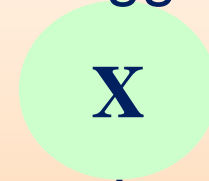
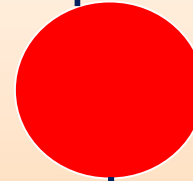


Turner's syndrome

FEMALE with one fewer X chromosome (XO)

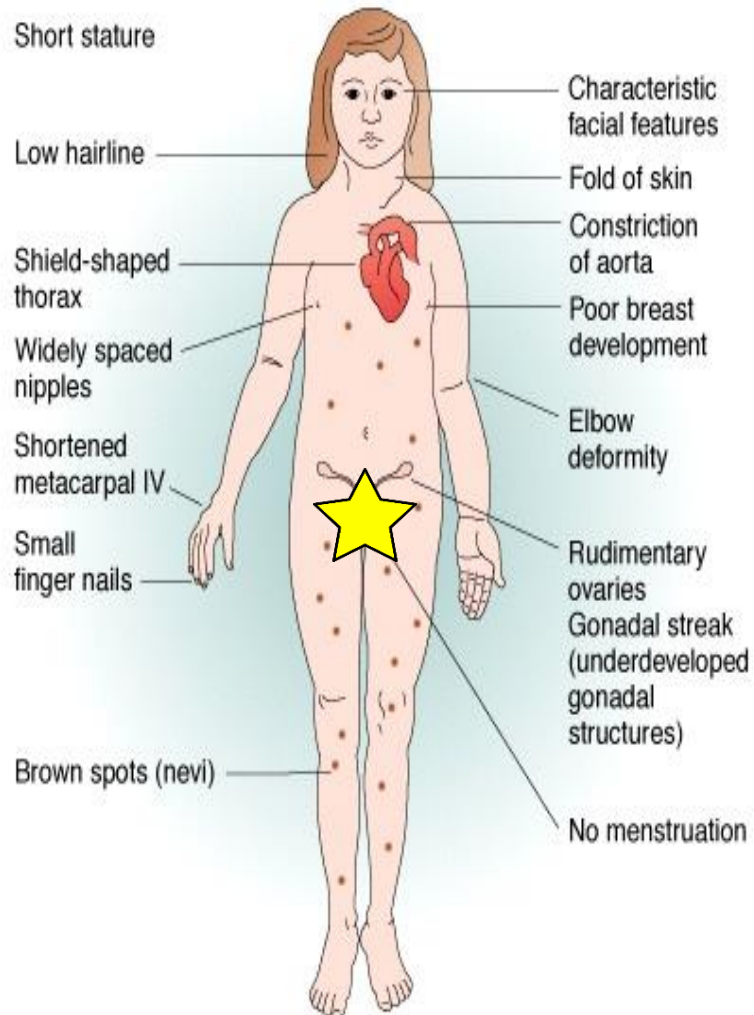
abnormal
sperm

normal
egg

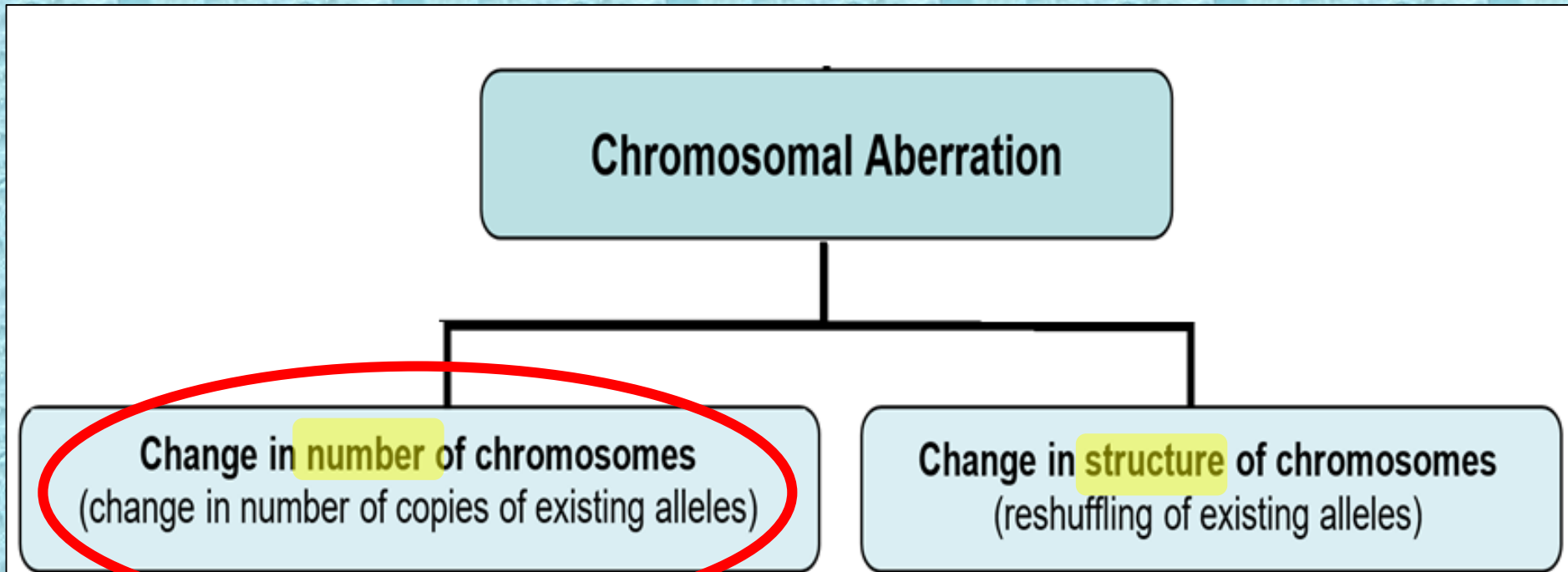


XO

Detection by karyogram



Types of Chromosomal Aberration



I. Aneuploidy ✓

II. Polyploidy

II) Polyploidy

- is a condition when there are three or more times the haploid number (n) of chromosomes in a nucleus.
- denoted as :
 $3n$ (three times haploid number),
 $4n$ (four times haploid number) or
 $5n$ (five times haploid number) etc.
- occurs when there is **increase in the number of sets of chromosomes** during non-disjunction events.

II) Polyploidy

Aneuploidy



1 extra chr

Polyploidy



1 extra set

????



1 extra section
of chromosome

II) Polyploidy

Non-disjunction events that result in polyploidy are:

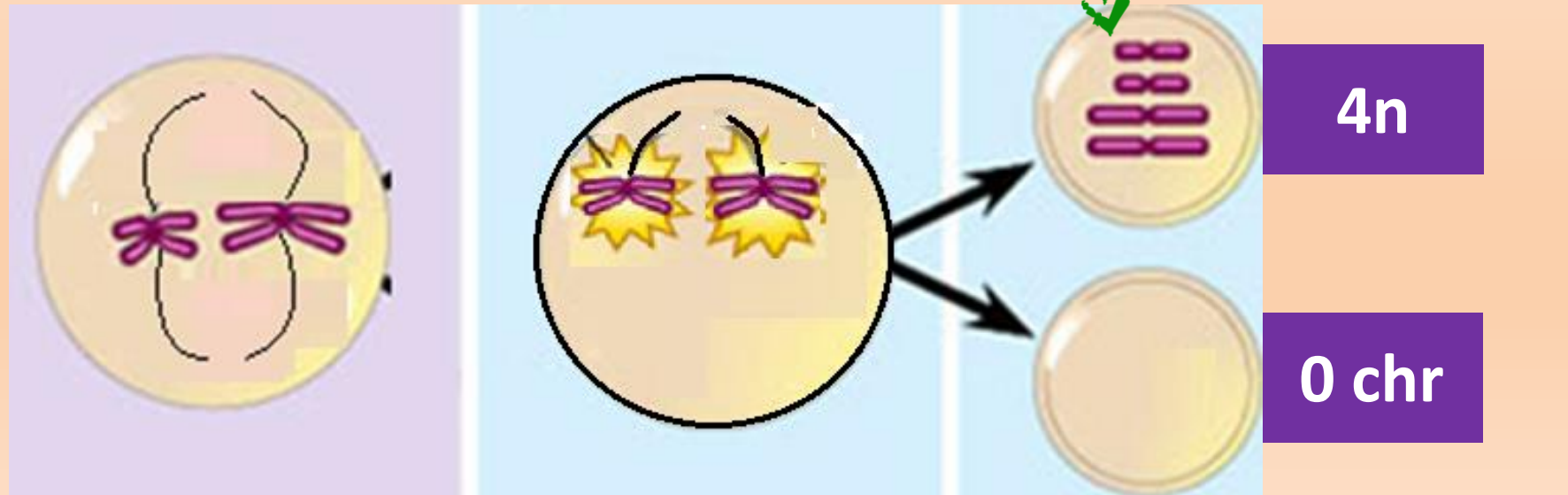
1. Failure of sister chromatids of **all** the chromosomes to separate during **anaphase in mitosis**
2. Failure of **all** homologous pairs of chromosomes to separate during **anaphase I in meiosis**
3. Failure of chromatids of **all** the chromosomes during **anaphase II in meiosis**.

**Compare with pg 48, paragraph 2
'one or several' vs 'all'**

II) Polyploidy

*For (1), daughter cells formed will have **4n***

1. sister chromatids of **ALL** chromosomes fail to separate during anaphase in mitosis



II) Polyploidy

For (2) & (3): diploid gametes are formed

2. **ALL** homologous pairs of chromosomes failed to separate during **anaphase I in meiosis**
3. chromatids of **ALL** chromosomes fail to separate during **anaphase II in meiosis**.



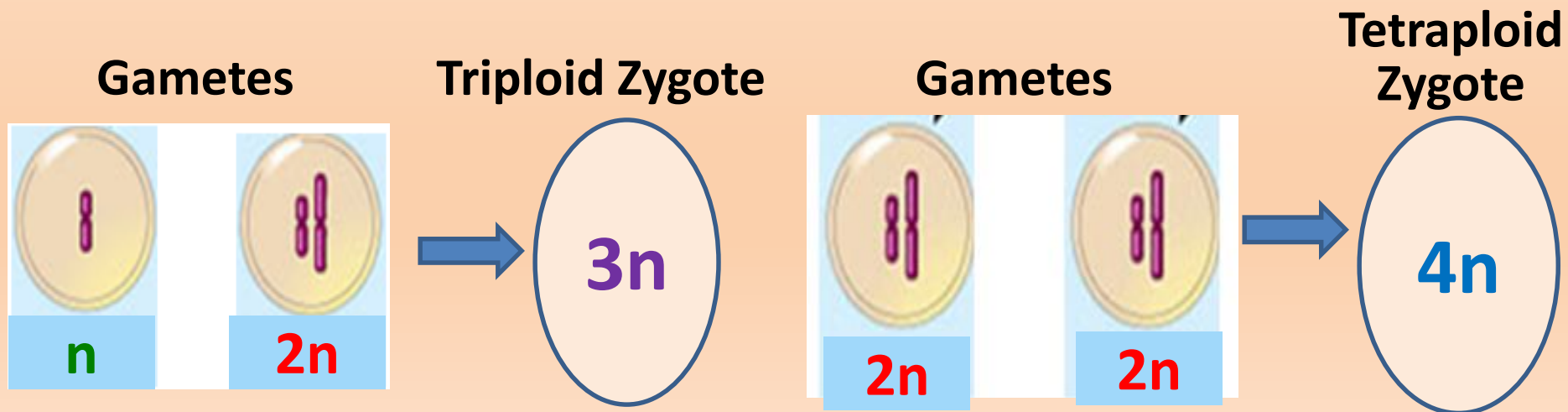
Normal Gamete



Diploid Gamete
(abnormal)

II) Polyploidy

- Subsequent fusion of a **diploid gamete ($2n$)** with a **normal haploid gamete (n)** results in a **triploid nucleus ($3n$)**
OR
- Fusion of **two diploid gametes ($2n$)** results in a **tetraploid nucleus ($4n$)**.



Polyploidy is more common in plants than animals

Problem:

Increased number of sets of chromosomes makes normal gamete formation during **meiosis** much **more prone to error**.

Special Note:

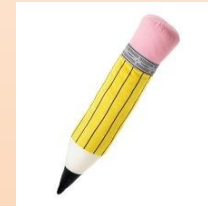
Since most plants are **capable of vegetative propagation** (asexual reproduction), they are able to reproduce (asexually) despite being polyploid.

Polyploidy in plants

Advantage:

Polyploidy is often associated with **advantageous features** such as increased size, **HARDINESS** and resistance to disease.

This is called **hybrid vigour**.



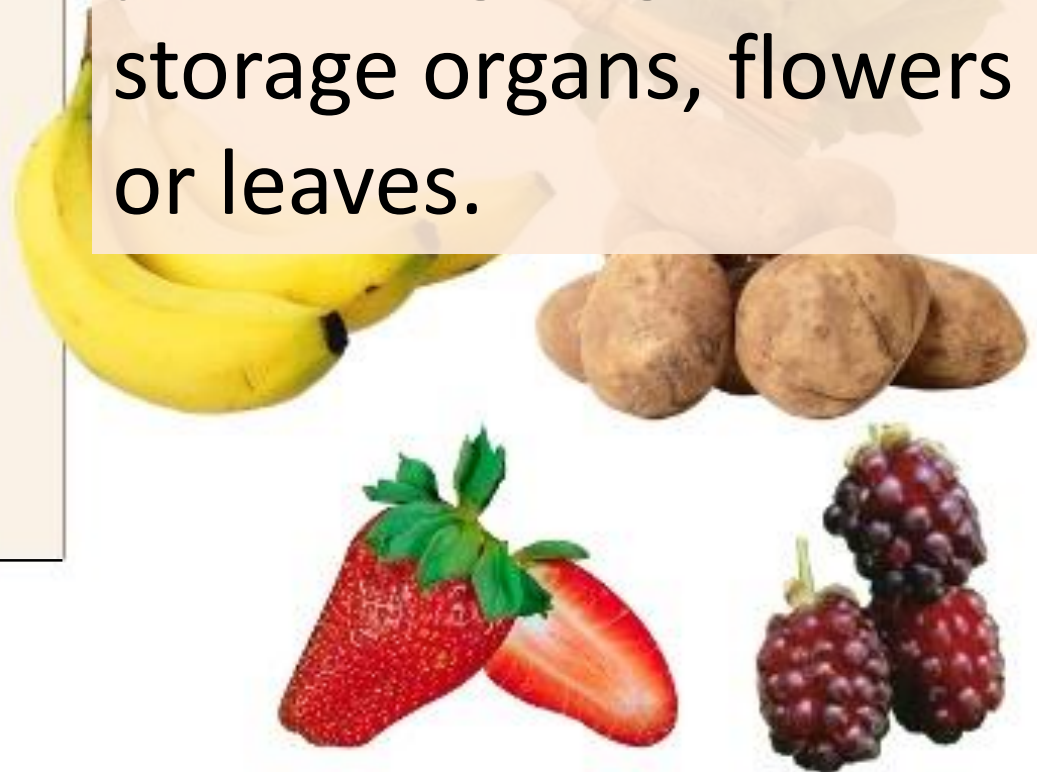
Polyploidy

Examples of Polyploid Plants

Name	Number
Common wheat	$6N = 42$
Tobacco	$4N = 48$
Potato	$4N = 48$
Banana	$3N = 27$
Boysenberry	$7N = 49$
Strawberry	$8N = 56$

Many **ferns** are polyploid with chromosome number up to $400N$

Most of our domestic plants are polyploids, producing large fruits, storage organs, flowers or leaves.



Polyploids look more normal than aneuploids

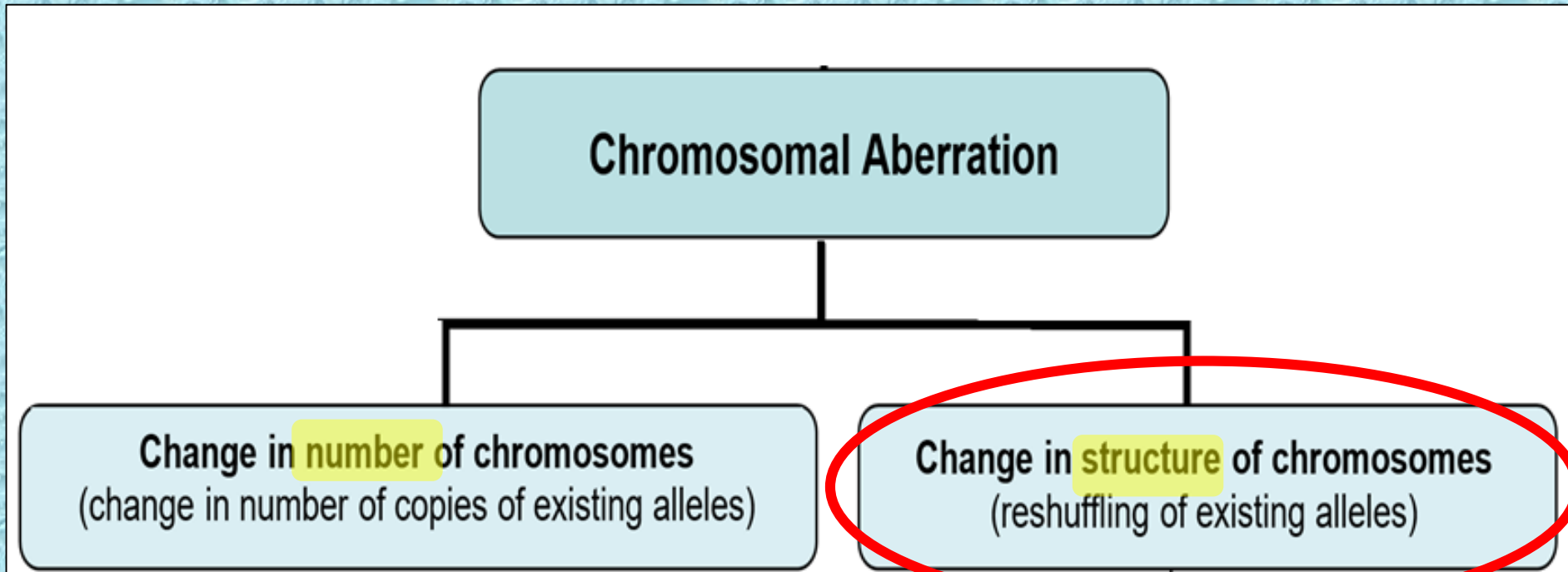
One extra (or missing) chromosomes apparently disrupts the genetic balance more than an entire extra set of chromosome.

II) Polyploidy

- **Colchicine** is a drug that can induce polyploidy
- It **inhibits spindle formation** by disrupting microtubules so that **sister chromatids fail to separate** during anaphase.



Types of Chromosomal Aberration



I. Aneuploidy ✓

II. Polyploidy ✓

1. Deletion
2. Duplication
3. Inversion
4. Translocation

[2] Change in structure of chromosomes

- Results from chromosomal breaks during mitosis or meiosis
- Effect: This often leads to reshuffling of alleles on the affected chromosomes



[2] Change in structure of chromosomes

- **4 types** of changes in chromosome structure:
 1. **Deletion**
 2. **Duplication**
 3. **Inversion**
 4. **Translocation**

General Effects

Deletion and **duplication** usually lead to an **abnormal phenotype**

due to

missing or increased
number of genes

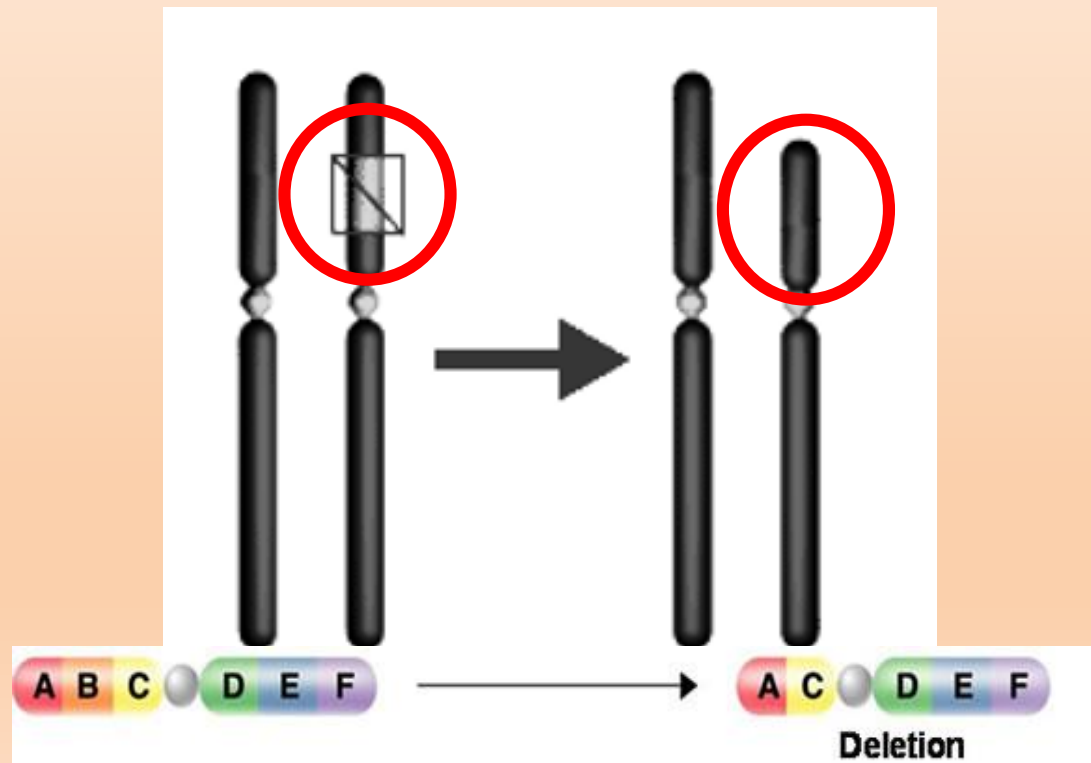
However, **inversion** and **translocation** can be **balanced**. (does not manifest an abnormal phenotype)

because

entire genome still present,
only position is changed

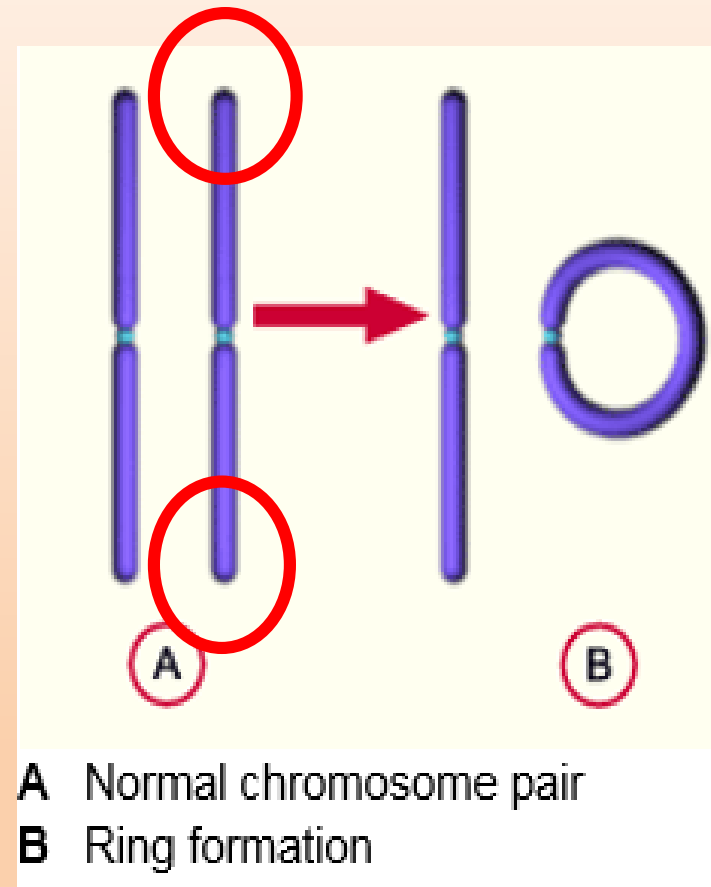
1) Deletion

- Involves the removal of a chromosomal segment
- **Effect**: Consequence depends on the **size** of the missing segment and **which genes** are found on it.



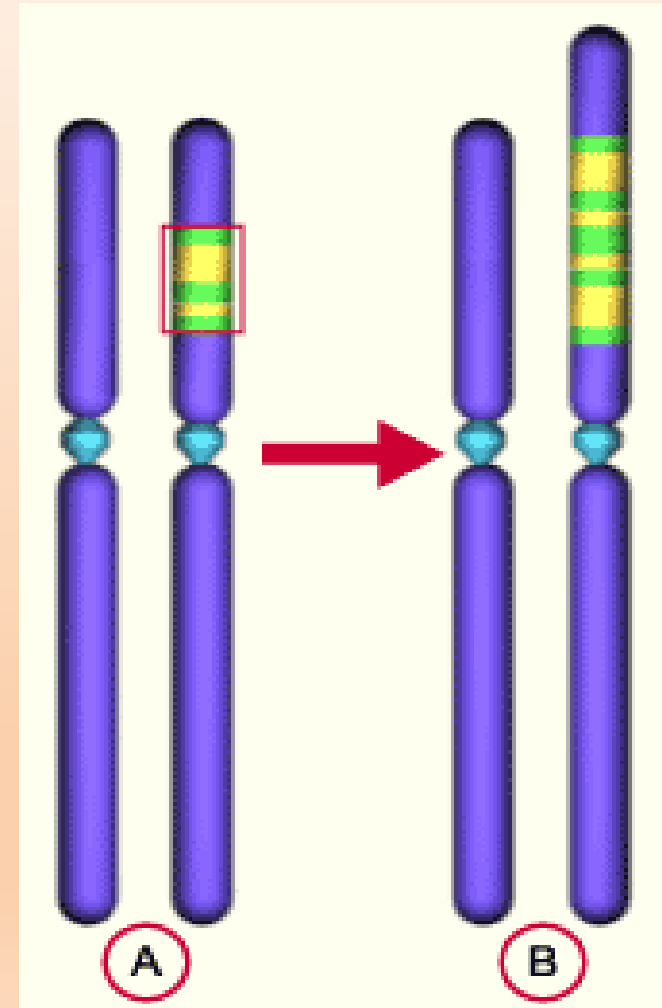
1) Deletion

- Deletion of **telomeres**
- May cause the formation of **Chromosome rings** when the two ends join to each other.
- **Effect:** If no genetic information is lost, such changes are **balanced** and the phenotype is **inconspicuous**.



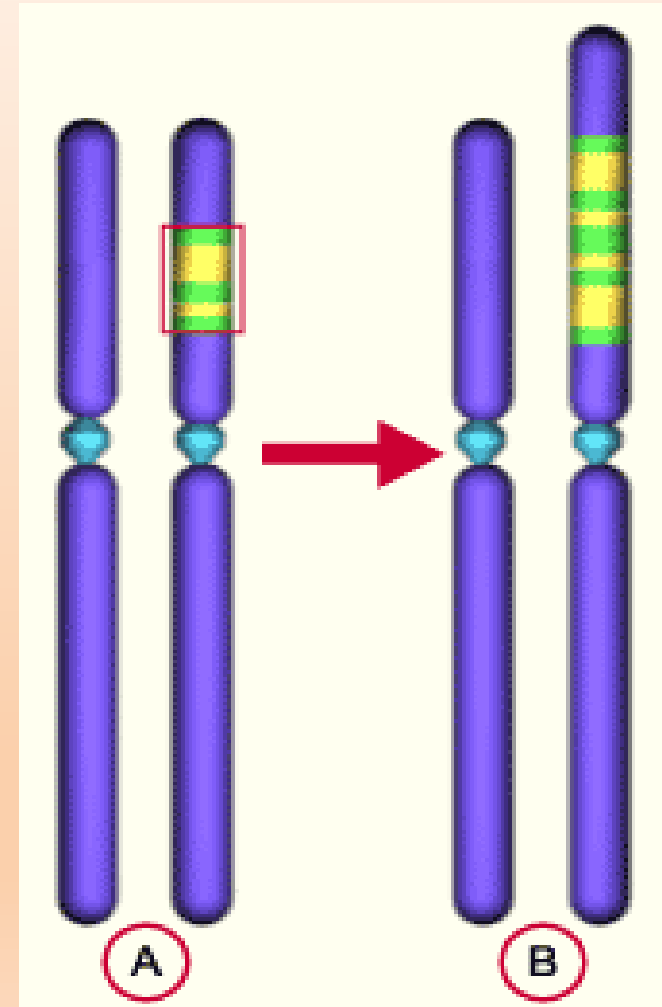
2) Duplication

- Involves the repeat of a chromosomal segment
- A duplication is sometimes termed a “**partial trisomy**”
- Affected person now has **3 copies of alleles** of a particular gene



2) Duplication

Effect: Extra copies of alleles of a particular gene may lead to **congenital abnormalities** or **developmental problems**

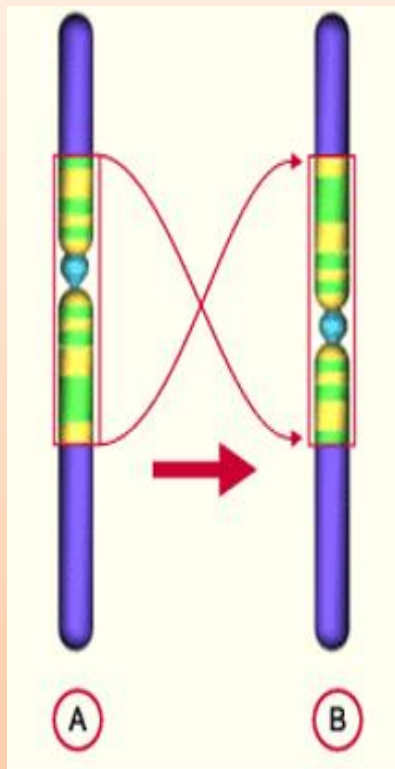


3) Inversion

- Involves the reversal of a chromosomal segment
- **Effect:** The phenotype of this disorder is **usually not exhibited**, since the complete genetic information is still present.



3) Inversion

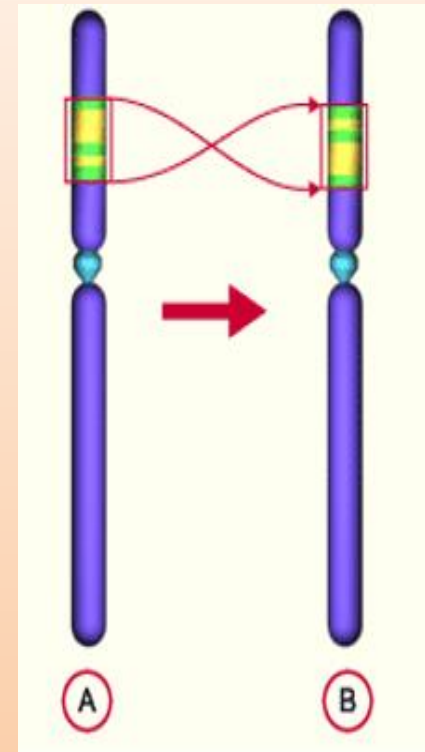


Pericentric

(includes centromere)

‘surrounding’

‘to the side of’



Paracentric

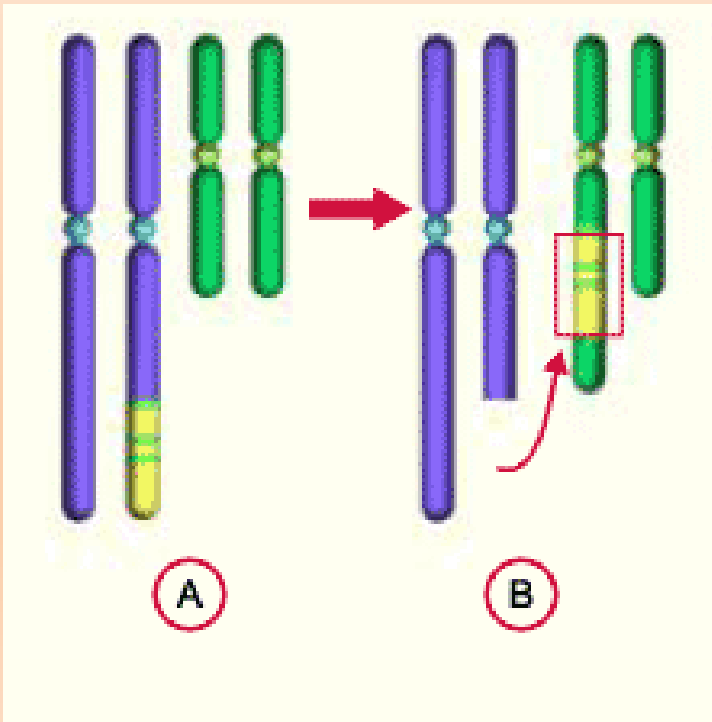
(Does not include centromere)

4) Translocation

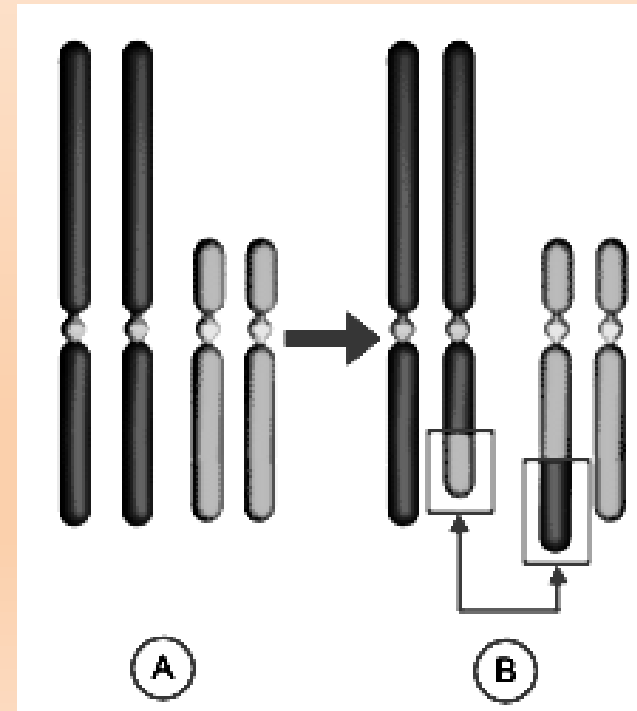
- Involves segment from one chromosome being **moved** to another **non-homologous chromosome**
- **Effect:** Can result in an abnormal phenotype if an **important gene is translocated to be downstream of an active / less active promoter**
- → change in expression level of protein

4) Translocation

**Non-reciprocal
translocation**
(1 way)

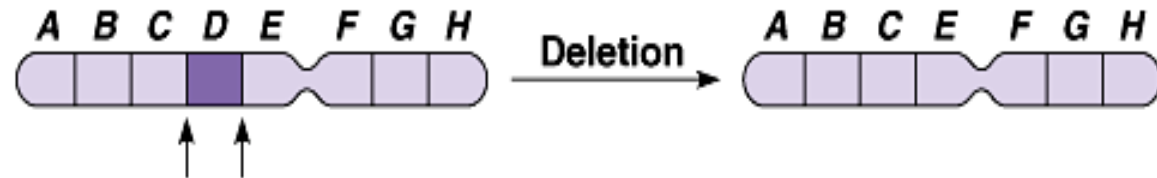


**Reciprocal
translocation**
(2 way)



Types of chromosomal breaks

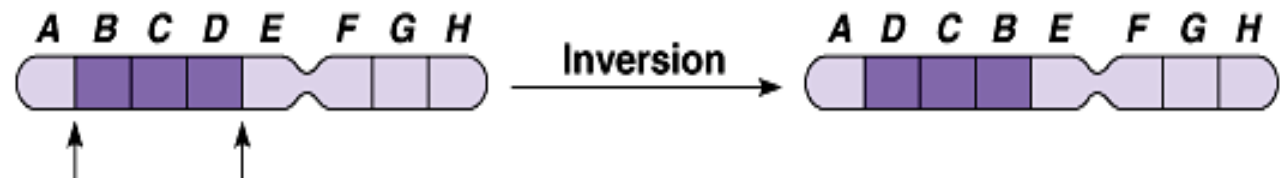
- (a) A **deletion** removes a chromosomal segment.



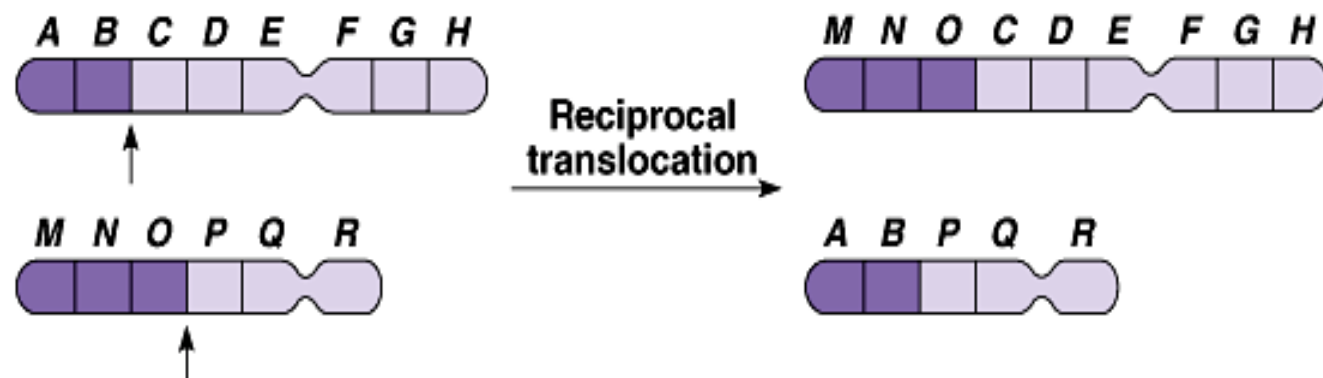
- (b) A **duplication** repeats a segment.



- (c) An **inversion** reverses a segment within a chromosome.



- (d) A **translocation** moves a segment from one chromosome to another, non-homologous one.



Summary

**Chromosomal
aberration**

defined as

**Change in number
of chromosomes
/numerical aberration**

**Change in structure
of chromosomes
/structural aberration**

occurs due to

Non-disjunction

Chromosomal breaks

results in

Aneuploidy

Polyploidy

Deletion

Duplication

Inversion

Translocation

