# Development of the Fetus

Once a month, during **menstruation** the lining of the uterus (the **endometrium**) thickens to prepare for fertilization.

The egg is released from the **ovary,** fertilized in the ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**Falloipian tube** and implants itself in the **uterus**.

When fertilized, the egg and sperm form the **zygote** which develops into the **embryo**, then **fetus** and eventually forms the **baby**

In the uterus, the zygote is attached to the **placenta** by **umbilical cord**. Nutrients pass through the **placenta** along the umbilical cord and to the fetus. Dangerous things such as alcohol, drugs, and **nicotine (smoking)** can be passed along.

The developing fetus is surrounded by a fluid, called the **amniotic** fluid, which cushions and protects the fetus. It is contained in the **amniotic sac**.

When the fetus is ready to be born, **oxytocin** signals the start of labour. The **amniotic sac (water)** breaks, the cervix dilates, and the baby is expelled. Shortly afterwards, the **placenta** is expelled.