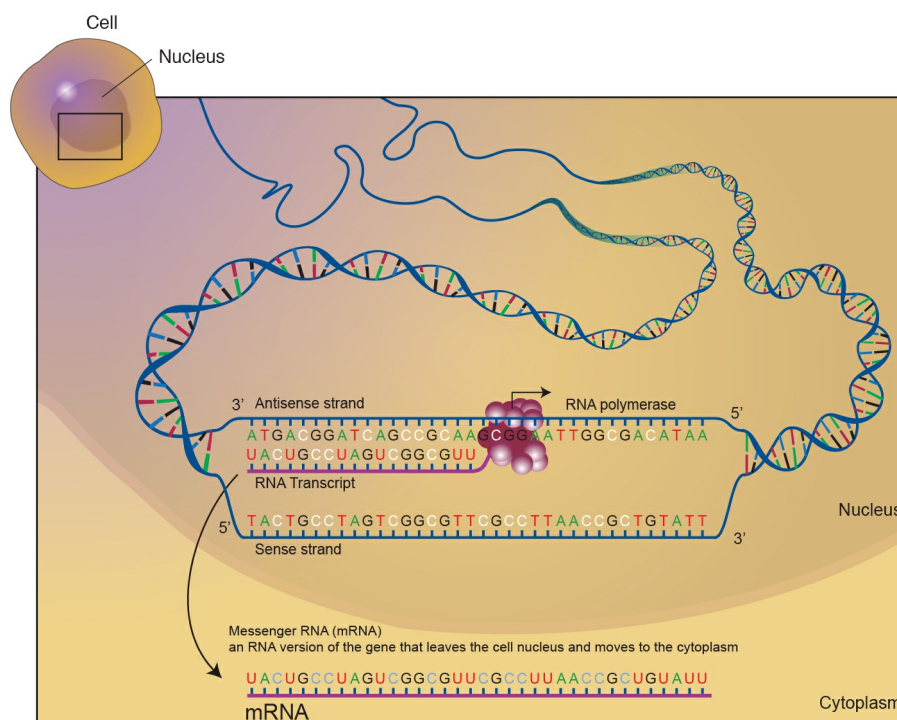


Messenger RNA (mRNA)

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Source

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). *Messenger RNA (mRNA)*.



Messenger RNA (mRNA) is a single-stranded RNA molecule that is complementary to one of the DNA strands of a gene. The mRNA is an RNA version of the gene that leaves the cell nucleus and moves to the cytoplasm where proteins are made. During protein synthesis, an organelle called a ribosome moves along the mRNA, reads its base sequence, and uses the genetic code to translate each three-base triplet, or codon, into its corresponding amino acid.