Abiotic vs. Biotic





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**Abiotic** factors refer to non-living physical and chemical elements in the ecosystem. Abiotic resources are usually obtained from the lithosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere. Examples of abiotic factors are water, air, soil, sunlight, and minerals.

**Biotic** factors are living or once-living organisms in the ecosystem. These are obtained from the biosphere and are capable of reproduction. Examples of biotic factors are animals, [birds](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Crow_vs_Raven), plants, fungi, and other similar organisms.

**Comparison chart**

Differences — Similarities —

http://static.diffen.com/css/img/loading.gif

| Abiotic versus Biotic comparison chart | | |
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| [Edit this comparison chart](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Special:EditTable?diffenVal1=Abiotic&diffenVal2=Biotic) | **Abiotic** | **Biotic** |
| **Introduction** | In ecology and biology, abiotic components are non-living chemical and physical factors in the environment which affect ecosystems. | Biotic describes a living component of an ecosystem; for example organisms, such as plants and animals. |
| **Examples** | Water, light, wind, soil, humidity, minerals, gases. | All living things — [autotrophs and heterotrophs](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Autotroph_vs_Heterotroph) — plants, animals, fungi, [bacteria](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Archaea_vs_Bacteria). |
| **Factors** | Affect the ability of organisms to survive, reproduce; help determine types and numbers of organisms able to exist in environment; limiting factors restrict growth. | Living things that directly or indirectly affect organisms in environment; organisms, interactions, waste; parasitism, disease, predation. |
| **Affects** | Individual of a species, population, community, ecosystem, biome, biosphere. | Individual of a species, population, community, ecosystem, biome, biosphere. |