**Transcription**

**Initiation**

* RNA polymerase binds to DNA at a region called the promoter

**Elongation**

* ****RNA Polymerase builds the mRNA in the 5’ 🡪 3’ direction using complementary base pairing.
* The strand transcribed is called the *template or anti-sense strand*. (has the opposite base sequence as mRNA)
* Template strand runs 3’ 🡪 5’
* The strand NOT transcribed is called the *coding or sense strand* (has the same base sequence as mRNA). Coding strand runs 5’ 🡪 3’.

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**Termination**

* Polymerase stops when it reaches a DNA sequence called the terminator
* The mRNA has been completely transcribed
* In eukaryotes, this is pre-mRNA and must be further processed before exiting the nucleus

