

# The Digestive System in Humans



**(yes, I did feel hungry immediately after editing this slideshow)**

# Introduction

In this lesson we will be learning about **digestion in humans**.

Digestion is a scientific way of describing how we **break down our food**.

It describes everything that happens to our food once it enters our mouths.

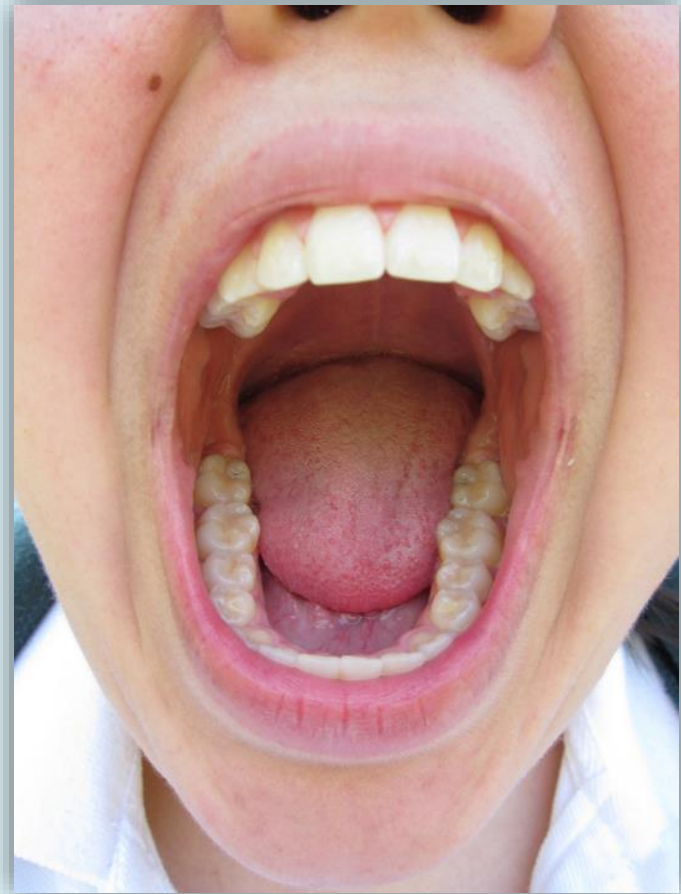


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By the end of this slideshow, you should know:

- What the mouth, tongue, teeth, oesophagus, stomach and intestines do to help us digest our food.
- The order of our digestive system.



## Starter

There are five main stages of digestion. Each takes place in a different part of your body.

Can you match the following body parts to the arrow?

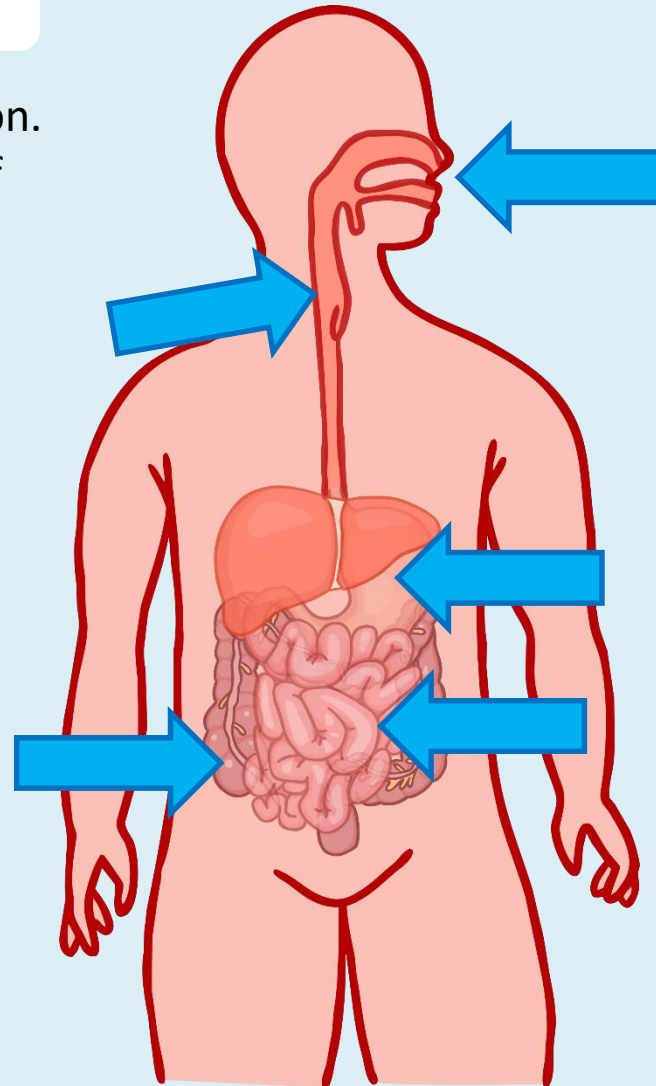
oesophagus

large intestine

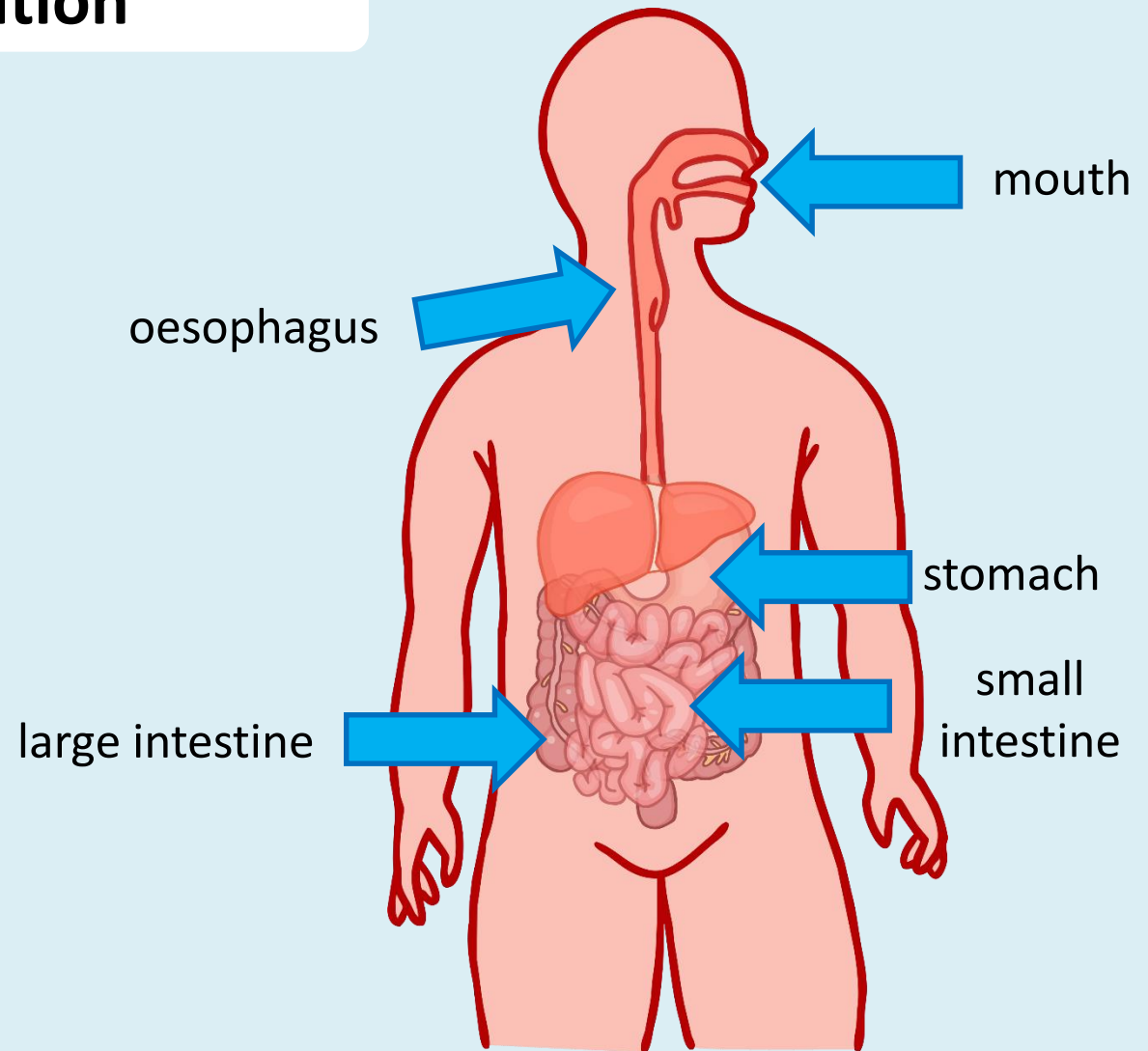
small intestine

stomach

mouth



## Solution



## Stage 1 – The Mouth

The digestive system starts in our **mouths**.

Which sentences describe the **tongue**, **mouth** and **teeth**?

A

Crush the food into smaller pieces.

B

Moves food around and allows you to swallow and taste food.

C

Digestion begins here. This is where food is broken down by chewing.

An anatomical illustration of the human digestive system is visible in the background. On the left, the esophagus and stomach are shown in shades of pink and red. On the right, the ribcage and spine are depicted in light blue and grey. The entire scene is set against a light blue background.

## Solution

A

Teeth

B

Tongue

C

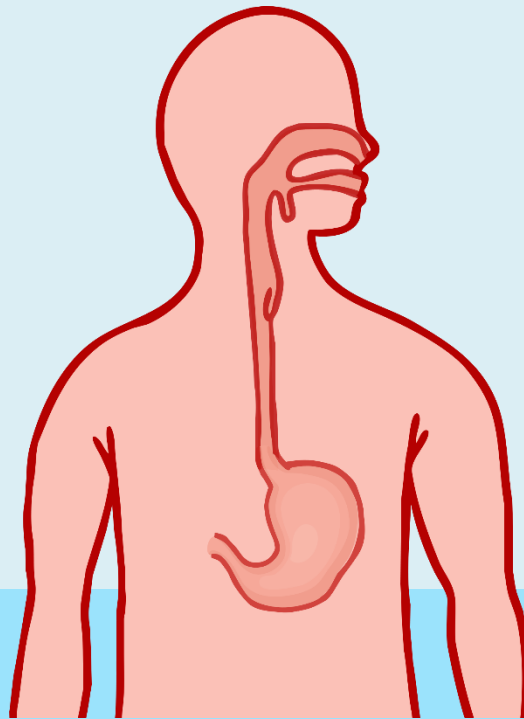
Mouth

Did you know: the moist lump of chewed food that you swallow is called a 'bolus'.

## Stage 2 – The Oesophagus

When you swallow your food enters your **oesophagus**.

The oesophagus is a long tube the connects your **mouth** to your **stomach**.





## Stage 2 – The Oesophagus

Your food doesn't just drop down your oesophagus, the muscles in the oesophagus squeeze the food down.



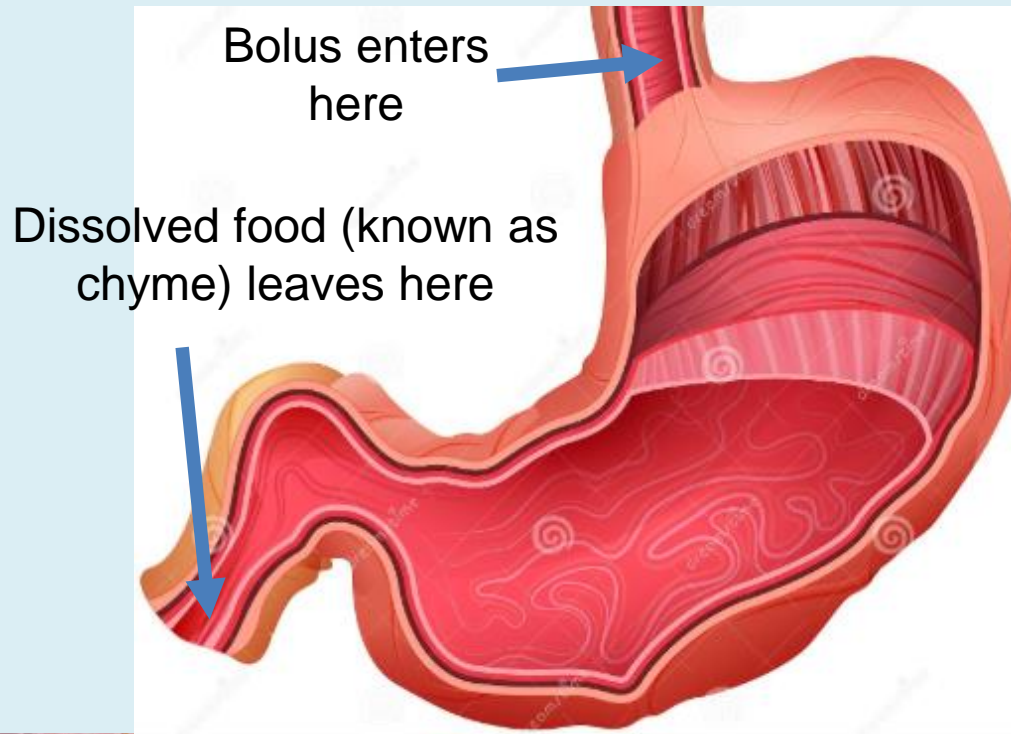
This is a little bit like a tube of toothpaste. If you squeeze the tube behind the toothpaste. The toothpaste is forced along the tube and out of the other side.

That's also why you can still swallow your food if you are upside down! (Please don't try this).

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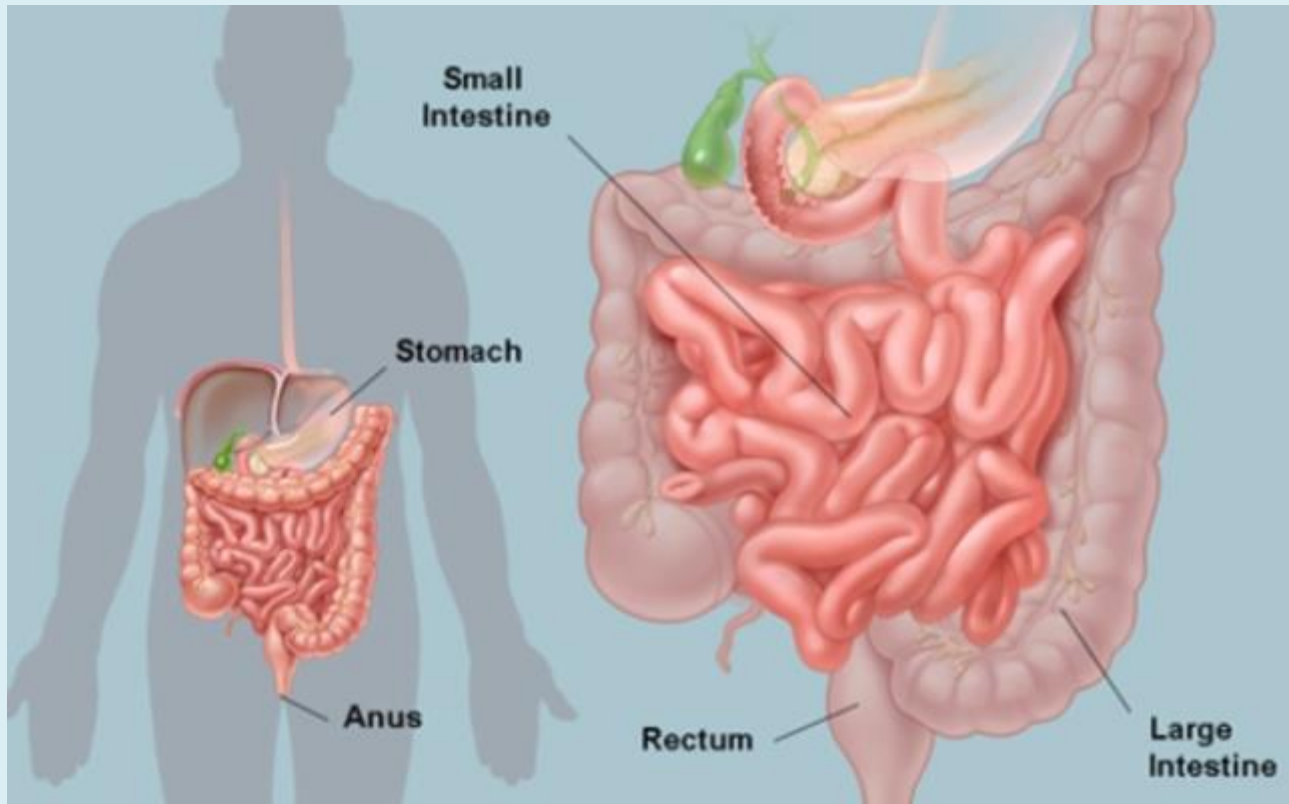
## Stage 3 – The Stomach

After the oesophagus, your food enters your stomach. Your stomach is like a large sack which churns your food with strong acid.



Have you ever felt your stomach gurgle after you've eaten? That's the muscular walls of your stomach pummelling the food into smaller pieces.

## Stages 4 and 5 – Small and Large Intestines



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After the stomach, your food enters your intestines.

Your small intestine breaks down your food even more and absorbs nutrients through its walls and into your blood.

The large intestine then lets water be absorbed through its walls and back into your body.

Waste product which cannot be of any use to the body is stored in the rectum until... (ahem)... 'elimination'.





## Activity

Can you create a step-by-step guide to explain the process of digestion? Your guide should include these words:

Digestive  
system

Mouth

Tongue

Teeth

Oesophagus

Stomach

Intestine

Food

And could also include:

Bolus

Chyme

Rectum

Elimination

Writing is fine but feel free to add artwork or use Powerpoint!