

The Human Digestive System

Your **mouth** is where food goes in and where it is chewed to make it softer and smaller so it can be swallowed.

Your **tongue** is a muscular organ in your mouth, which is covered in thousands of taste buds.

Your **teeth** help to break down your food into smaller pieces.

The **salivary** gland is where the important secretion saliva is made. Saliva softens your food so you are able to swallow it.

Your **liver** acts as a chemical processing factory to change most of the food that you eat into substances that your body can use. It also gets rid of the things that are no use or are toxic to your body. It produces a liquid called bile, which aids digestion and helps to absorb fats.

The **gall bladder** is a small pouch that sits just under your liver. The gall bladder stores bile produced by the liver.

All the food material that is still unwanted now goes on its last journey through your **large intestine**. It passes through a part of the large intestine called the colon, which is where the body gets its last chance to absorb any water or minerals into the blood. As the water leaves the waste product, what's left gets harder and harder as it keeps moving along, until it becomes a solid poo.

The **oesophagus** is the tube that connects your mouth and your stomach. It has muscles within it that work in waves to move the food you have eaten down into your stomach.

The **stomach** is like a stretchy sack where your food is broken down by acids and enzymes. Once it is broken down, it becomes a porridge-like substance called chyme.

After the chyme comes out of the stomach, it goes into the **duodenum** where it is broken down some more. It also connects to other parts of the digestive system like your liver, your gall bladder and your pancreas.

The **small intestine** is a long stretchy tube that is packed beneath your stomach. It breaks down the food mixture even more so your body can absorb all the vitamins, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates and fats.

The **large intestine** pushes the poo into the rectum, which is the very last stop on the digestive tract. The solid waste stays here until you are ready to go to the toilet.

The solid waste is pushed through the anus into the toilet. The end of your food's journey!