

The Digestive System

Mouth

The digestive process starts in your mouth when you chew. Your salivary glands make saliva, a digestive juice, which moistens food so it moves more easily through your esophagus into your stomach. Saliva also has an enzyme that begins to break down starches in your food, into glucose.

Pharynx

The pharynx, usually called the throat, carries air, food and fluid down from the nose and mouth

Oesophagus

After you swallow, peristalsis pushes the food down your oesophagus into your stomach.

Liver

Your liver makes a digestive juice called bile that helps digest fats and some vitamins. Bile ducts carry bile from your liver to your gallbladder for storage, or to the small intestine for use.

Gall Bladder

Your gallbladder stores bile between meals. When you eat, your gallbladder squeezes bile through the bile ducts into your small intestine.

Large Intestine

In your large intestine, more water moves from your GI tract into your bloodstream. Bacteria in your large intestine help break down remaining nutrients and make vitamin K. Waste products of digestion, including parts of food that are still too large, become stool.

Appendix

The appendix is a thin, roughly four-inch-long tube that's part of your gastrointestinal (GI) tract. The GI tract is a complex group of organs, each of which helps your body digest and absorb food.

Rectum

After completing the process of digestion, the intestines use the muscular walls of the sigmoid colon to push faeces into the rectum. The body stores faeces in the rectum until defecation occurs. Stretch receptors in the wall of the rectum detect when it is full and stimulate the urge to excrete stool through the anus.

Salivary Glands

Sublingual Gland: Below either side of your tongue, under the floor of your mouth.

Submandibular Gland: Located along your jaw and consist of two parts : The Superficial Lobe and The Deep Lobe. The saliva produced in this gland enter your mouth from under your tongue.

Parotid Gland: Located just in front of your ears and have two parts the same as the submandibular glands. The saliva produced in this gland enters your mouth through small ducts in the upper molars.

Stomach

An organ with strong muscular walls, the stomach holds the food and mixes it with acid and enzymes that continue to break the food down into a liquid or paste.

Pancreas

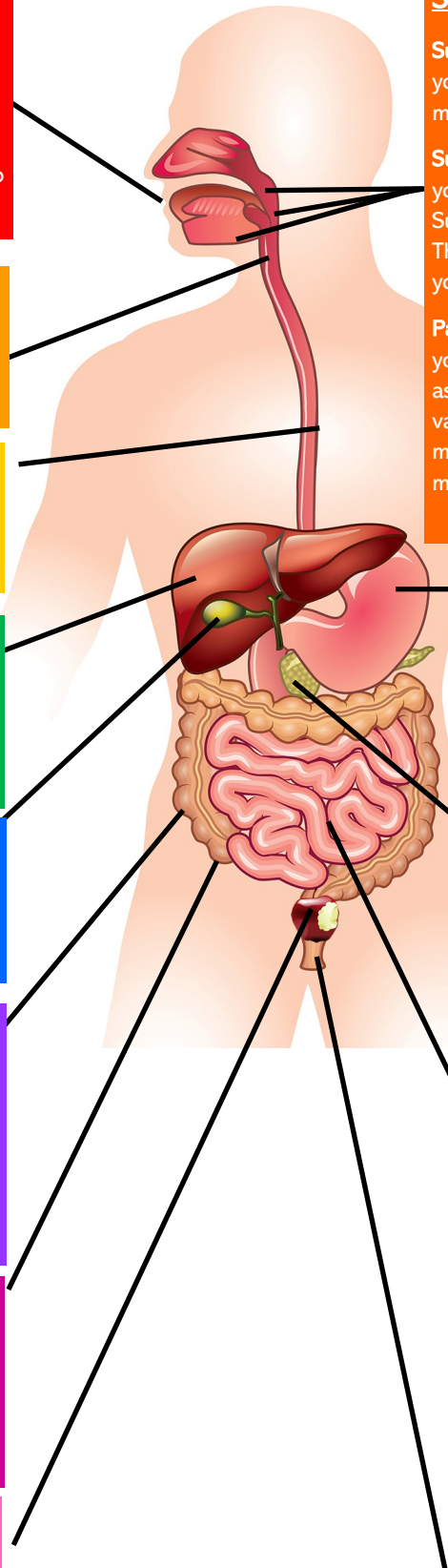
Your pancreas makes a digestive juice that has enzymes that break down carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. The pancreas delivers the digestive juice to the small intestine through small tubes called ducts.

Small Intestine

Your small intestine makes digestive juice, which mixes with bile and pancreatic juice to complete the breakdown of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats. Bacteria in your small intestine make some of the enzymes you need to digest carbohydrates. Your small intestine moves water from your bloodstream into your GI tract to help break down food. Your small intestine also absorbs water with other nutrients.

Anus

The anus is the opening at the far end of the digestive tract through which stool leaves the body. The anus is formed partly from the surface layers of the body. A muscular ring keeps the anus closed until the person has a bowel movement.



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