

The Digestive System

Introduction

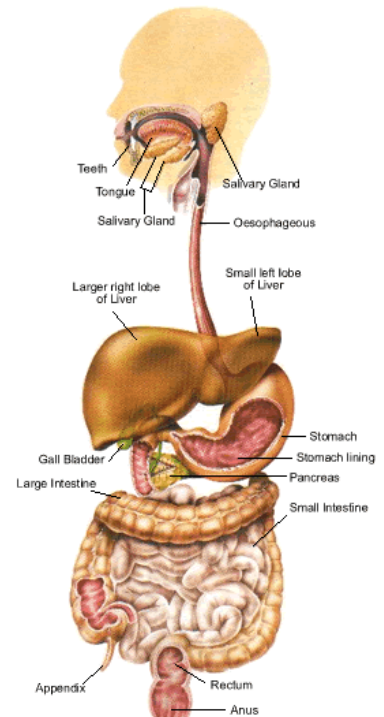
The human digestive system is composed of a long tube called the **alimentary canal** and the accessory **organs**.

The alimentary canal: the tube through which ingested products move, consists of:

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. The mouth | E. The colon (Large intestine) |
| B. The esophagus | F. The rectum |
| C. The stomach | G. The anus |
| D. The small intestine | |

The accessory organs: have digestive functions but do not come into contact with the material passing through the digestive tract. They include

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| A. The salivary glands | B. The liver |
| i. Parotid glands | C. The pancreas |
| ii. Submandibular glands | D. Gall bladder |
| iii. Sublingual glands | |



The digestive system's main function is to breakdown complex materials into smaller components that are used by many different tissues of the human body. There are four main components of this system, which will be studied independently throughout the unit.

- 1) **Ingestion:** the taking in of nutrient
- 2) **Digestion:** the breakdown of complex organic molecules into smaller components by enzymes.
- 3) **Absorption:** the transport of digested nutrients to the various tissues of the body
- 4) **Egestion:** the removal of waste materials from the body