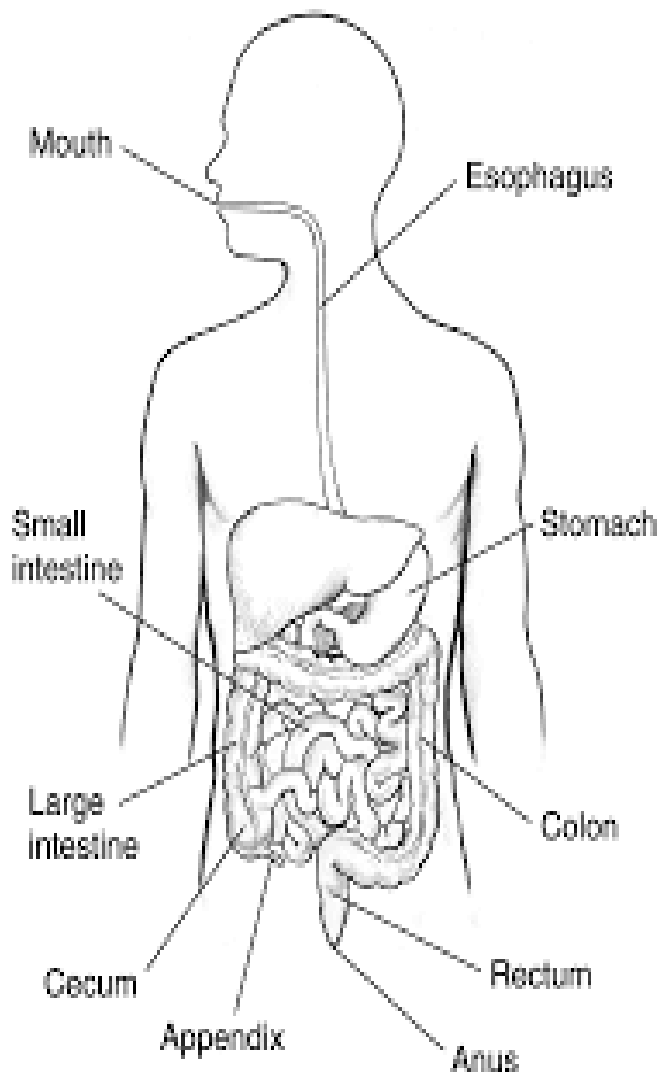


Digestive System: Process of digestion:

Let us learn how the food moves down to our stomach and gets digested.



Food is taken in mouth

Teeth help in cutting and chewing of the food

Saliva contains an enzyme **salivary amylase** which converts starch into sugar

Food is mixed with saliva to make it easy to swallow

Chewed food (bolus) is pushed down the throat by the tongue

The bolus goes through food pipe or **oesophagus** by peristaltic movement (alternate contraction and relaxation)

Enters stomach. Gastric glands of stomach secrete hydrochloric acid, pepsin and mucus

Hydrochloric acid makes the medium of the stomach acidic to facilitate the action of enzyme **pepsin**. **Pepsin** helps in the digestion of proteins and **mucus** protects the lining of stomach from the effect of acid

Passes into **small intestine (chyme)**, mixes with digestive juices from liver and pancreas

Bile juice from liver makes the medium alkaline and breaks down the larger fat globules to fat droplets (emulsification) in order to increase the efficiency of enzyme action

Pancreatic juice secrete **trypsin** for protein digestion and **lipase** to digest fat

Digestion of food gets completed in small intestine

Villi present on the wall of small intestine help in the absorption of digested food

Undigested food passes to **large intestine**. Excess water is absorbed here

Undigested food is egested through the **anus** as waste (fecal matter)

Picture source:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nihgov/25083237542>

