

# Vocabulary



**esophagus** the tube that leads from the mouth to the stomach

The esophagus has muscles that contract to push food along.

**large intestine** the digestive organ that removes extra water from wastes

The large intestine is also called the colon. It is about five feet long.

**liver** the digestive organ that makes bile to break down fats

Besides making bile, the liver stores sugar until the body needs it. The liver also helps the body get rid of harmful substances.

**pancreas** the digestive organ that makes chemicals to break down proteins, carbohydrates, and fats

The pancreas also helps control the amount of sugar in the blood.

**saliva** the liquid that starts digestion in the mouth

Saliva contains a digestive juice that breaks down starch into sugar.

**small intestine** the digestive organ that finishes breaking down food and takes nutrients into the bloodstream

The small intestine is lined with tiny finger-like villi. These structures have many blood vessels for absorbing nutrients.

**stomach** the digestive organ that churns food and mixes it with digestive juices

The stomach turns food into a mushy liquid that passes into the small intestine.