

A Guide to the Human Digestive System

Learning objective: To describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans.

Use this writing frame to describe how the human body breaks down food. Follow the prompts in each section to build your explanation, using the word bank to help your sentences flow.

Our bodies need energy to work, move, and grow, which is why the digestive system is so important.

Word bank: firstly · after that · meanwhile · subsequently · finally · in addition · breaks down · nutrients · absorbed · process

1. The Mouth: How does digestion start when you take your first bite? Start your sentence with: Firstly, the teeth and saliva work together to... (2 marks)

2. The Oesophagus and Stomach: What happens to the food after it is swallowed? Start your sentence with: After the food travels down the oesophagus, it reaches the stomach where... (2 marks)

3. The Small Intestine: How do nutrients get into our bodies? Start your sentence with: Once the food reaches the small intestine, the body starts to... (2 marks)

4. The Large Intestine: What happens at the end of the process? Start your sentence with: Finally, the large intestine removes any remaining water so that... (2 marks)

5. The Importance of Digestion: Why is this whole process vital for our survival? Start your sentence with: Digestion is essential because without it, humans would not be able to... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the owl is curious about how diet affects the digestive system. Write a short paragraph explaining why it is important for humans to eat a balanced diet to keep their digestive system healthy.