

# The Amazing Journey of Digestion

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

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences to justify your thinking.

Bea the honeybee loves to observe how living things process energy. When you take a bite of an apple, your digestive journey begins. Inside your mouth, your teeth grind the food while saliva begins the clever process of breaking it down. Once you swallow, the food travels down a muscular tube called the oesophagus, which acts like a slide leading straight to your stomach. In the stomach, powerful acids churn the food into a thick liquid, ensuring that your body can begin to extract the goodness it needs. Next, the mixture moves into the small intestine. This is where the magic happens: tiny, finger-like projections absorb vital nutrients and vitamins, passing them directly into your bloodstream to fuel your muscles and brain. Finally, the remains pass into the large intestine, where water is removed before the waste is prepared to leave the body. Digestion is a remarkable, non-stop process that transforms your lunch into the energy you need to run, learn, and grow every single day.

*Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · intestine · nutrients · digestion · saliva*

## 1. What is the specific role of the oesophagus during the digestive process? (2 marks)

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## 2. Identify the two organs mentioned where the food is processed after it leaves the mouth. (2 marks)

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## 3. Why is the small intestine described as the place where the 'magic happens'? (2 marks)

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## 4. Explain why the body needs to remove water in the large intestine before waste leaves the body. (2 marks)

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**5. Justify your answer: If a person had a problem with their small intestine, how might this affect their ability to participate in sports? (3 marks)**

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**Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing the path of a piece of food through the human digestive system, including the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and intestines.**



*Extension challenge: Research and explain what might happen to the digestive process if the stomach acid were less acidic. Compare and contrast how humans digest food versus how a cow might process grass.*