

abdomen

The lower part of an animal or human’s body where the stomach and intestines are located.

absorb

To take in or soak up a substance.

acid

A chemical substance that can dissolve and burn other substances.

amylase

An enzyme in saliva that helps break down starch in food into sugars.

bile

A liquid produced in the liver that helps the body to digest fat.

blood vessel

A vein, artery or capillary that carries blood around the body.

bolus

A small, chewed-up lump of food.

bowel

A long tube that transports digested food from the stomach out of the body.

bridge

A plate containing false teeth that fits into the mouth and is fastened onto the remaining real teeth.

calcium carbonate

A chalk-like substance that forms part of your teeth.

canine

A pointed tooth near the front of the mouth that is used for tearing food.

colon

A part of the large intestine.

crop

A pouch in the oesophagus of many birds that stores food and slowly passes it to the stomach.

crown

A top piece fitted over a broken tooth.

decay

To rot away.

dentine

The main material that a tooth is made from.

denture

A set of false teeth.

digestion

The process that happens when food is broken down inside the body after being eaten.

digestive system

The parts of the body that are responsible for digesting food such as the stomach, oesophagus and intestines.

dissolve

The process that happens when a solute (normally a solid) is incorporated into a solvent (normally a liquid).

enamel

The hard, white substance that covers a tooth.

enzyme

A chemical substance in the body that causes changes to happen. For example, enzymes in saliva break down food at the start of digestion.

faeces

The solid waste passed out of a human or animal after digestion.

filling

A small amount of plastic or metal that dentists use to fill in holes or cavities in teeth.

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floss

A special kind of thin string used to clean between teeth.

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germ

A tiny organism that can cause illness. They can only be seen under a microscope.

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gizzard

A muscular part of a bird’s stomach where grit and small stones help to break down food.

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gum

The pink flesh in the mouth that surrounds the roots of the teeth.

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hygiene

The act of keeping clean to prevent illness and the spread of disease.

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incisor

A sharp tooth near the front of the mouth that is used for cutting food.

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large intestine

The lower part of the bowels that removes water from food during digestion.

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lipase

An enzyme created in the pancreas that helps the body to digest fat.

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mandible

The lower jaw bone.

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maxilla

The upper jaw bone.

milk teeth

The first set of teeth that are grown by children, which fall out and are replaced by a permanent second set of teeth.

molar

A large, flat tooth at the back of the mouth that grinds up food as it is chewed.

mouth

An opening in a person or animal’s face that can contain a tongue and teeth.

nerve

A long, thin fibre that sends messages to and from the brain and around the body.

oesophagus

A tube that transports food from the mouth to the stomach.

papilla

The raised lump at the base of a tooth.

plaque

A sticky coating that builds up on teeth and contains millions of bacteria.

premolar

The teeth immediately in front of the molars that are used for chewing and grinding food.

pulp

The soft part in the centre of a tooth which contains blood vessels and nerves.

rectum

The end of the large intestine that solid waste passes through before leaving the body.

root

The part of a tooth that is inside the gum.

saliva

The liquid produced in your mouth, also known as spit, which starts the digestion process.

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small intestine

The upper part of the bowels that is between the stomach and large intestine.

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stomach

An organ in the body that is part of the digestive system.

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tongue

A piece of flesh in the mouth used for eating and speaking.

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uvula

The soft piece of flesh that dangles down at the back of the mouth and stops food from going up your nose when you swallow.

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wisdom tooth

One of the last four teeth to grow at the back of the upper and lower jaw.