The Digestive system is responsible for supplying the body with nutrients.

The gastro-intestinal tract, also known as GI tract, is where the digestion of food takes place.

It begins in the mouth, proceeds through the oesophagus to the stomach, then through the small and large intestines and finally to the rectum.

This entire tract measures around 8 metres in length!
A system that works like a factory.

**1. Mouth**

Digestion begins in the mouth. The teeth work with the enzymes in the saliva to help and break down the food into small chunks.

- Enzyme: analyse
- Teeth break up food into smaller chunks
- Teeth, tongue, cheeks
- Tongue allows you to swallow your food
2. OESOPHAGUS
Food passes down the Oesophagus and into the stomach, where it is broken down further.

3. STOMACH
Gastric Juices in the stomach help to break down food further, before it passes into the small Intestine.

4. SMALL INTESTINE
Final digestion and absorption of nutrients takes place in the small intestine. Villi are small finger-like projections in the small intestine that absorb nutrients from food.

Chewed food.

25 cm in length - tube
Peristalsis - contracting of muscles moves the bolus from the Oesophagus to the stomach.
Reverses Peristalsis
lasts 8-9 seconds.

Stomach has a 2L capacity
Stomach wall churns the food and mixes it with gastric juices (Hydrochloric Acid) to turn food into chyme.

Food is broken down further by citric acid.

Villi - finger like projections that absorb nutrients from food and send them to different parts of the body.

Example: protein from meat goes to muscles and tissues.
Any solid left over food waste is stored in the Large Intestine before excretion.

Lumps of faeces (referred to as stool) form in the large intestine, eventually to be expelled via the anus.

Water and minerals are absorbed and faeces are formed.

Anus - muscle that contracts and relaxes to expel faeces.