

Topic: Nutrition
Class: B.Sc Part –III (Hons.)
Paper- V
Group – B

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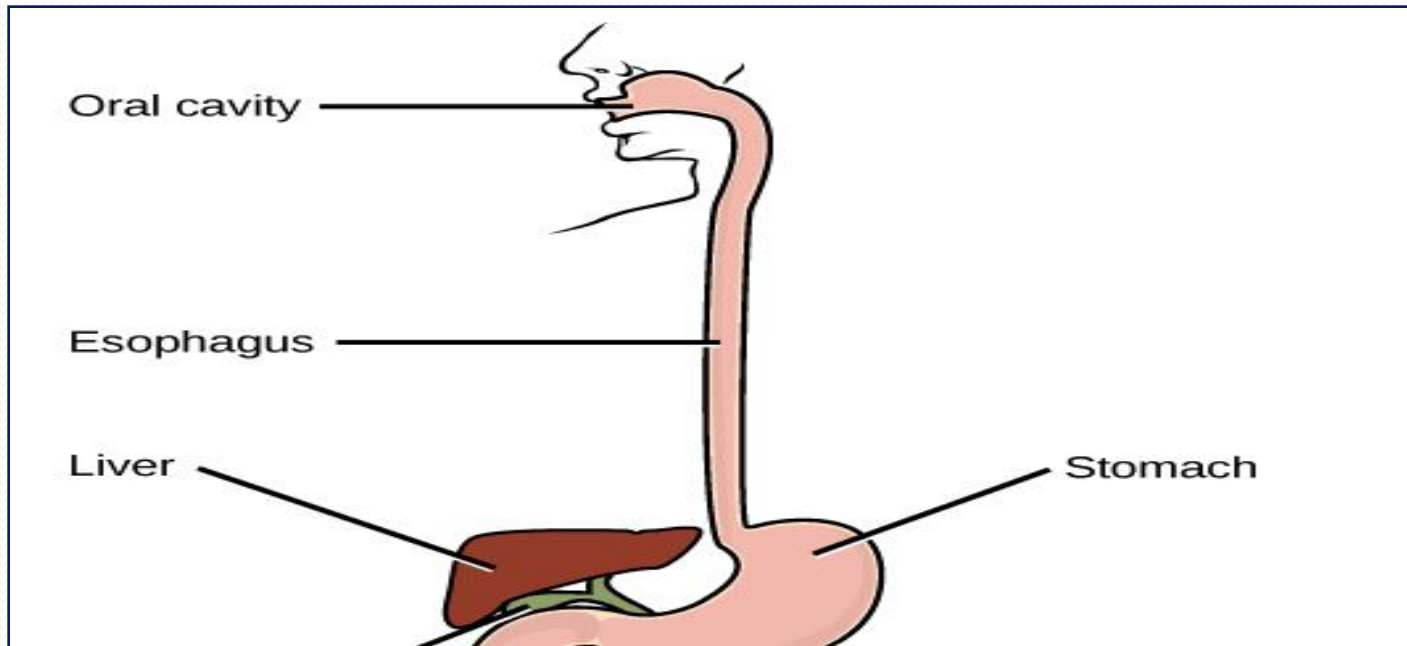
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Esophagus

- The esophagus is a tubular organ that connects the mouth to the stomach.
- The chewed and softened food passes through the esophagus after being swallowed.
- The smooth muscles of the esophagus undergo peristalsis that pushes the food toward the stomach.
- The peristaltic wave is unidirectional—it moves food from the mouth to the stomach, and reverse movement is not possible, except in the case of the vomit reflex.
- The peristaltic movement of the esophagus is an involuntary reflex; it takes place in response to the act of swallowing.

Esophagus



- Ring-like muscles called sphincters form valves in the digestive system.
- The gastro-esophageal sphincter (or cardiac sphincter) is located at the stomach end of the esophagus.
- In response to swallowing and the pressure exerted by the bolus of food, this sphincter opens, and the bolus enters the stomach.
- When there is no swallowing action, this sphincter is shut and prevents the contents of the stomach from traveling up the esophagus.
- Acid reflux or “heartburn” occurs when the acidic digestive juices escape into the esophagus.