

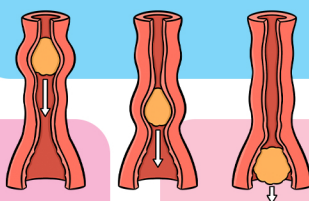
FUN FACTS ABOUT THE HUMAN STOMACH

STRETCHY STOMACH

Your stomach can stretch to hold about a liter of food and liquid after a big meal, then shrink back down when it's empty.

RUMBLE ANYTIME

Your stomach can growl even when it is full, not just when it is empty.



FRESH LINING

Your stomach's lining replaces itself with a fresh layer every few days so the strong acid does not wear it away.

GROWLING ALERT

The rumbling sound your stomach makes happens when air and fluid move through it.

ACID POWER

Your stomach makes acid strong enough to dissolve metal, but a special lining protects the stomach from digesting itself.

SPEEDY MIXER

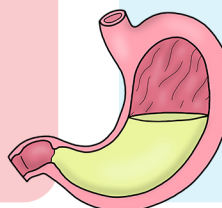
Muscles in your stomach wall squeeze and churn food into a soupy mixture called chyme in just a few hours.

QUICK TRIP DOWN

Food spends only a few seconds in your mouth and esophagus before reaching your stomach, where it stays for several hours.

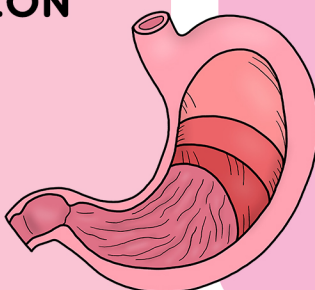
BUILT-IN TIMER

It takes about two to four hours for your stomach to empty a normal meal into the small intestine.



ZERO GRAVITY DIGESTION

Astronauts' stomachs still work normally in space because muscles push food along, not gravity.



TINY AT BIRTH

A newborn baby's stomach is only about the size of a cherry, but it stretches bigger as they grow.