

# Human Heart Study Sheet

1. atrium The upper chamber of the heart that receives blood from the veins.
2. ventricle The lower chamber of the heart that pumps blood out to the body.
3. aorta The largest artery in the body that carries oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the rest of the body.
4. valve A structure that opens and closes to control the flow of blood through the heart.
5. septum The wall of tissue that separates the left and right sides of the heart.
6. myocardium The muscular tissue of the heart responsible for contracting and pumping blood.
7. sinoatrial node The natural pacemaker of the heart, initiating the heartbeat.
8. atrioventricular node A node that relays the electrical impulse from the atria to the ventricles.
9. bundle of His A group of heart muscle cells that transmit electrical impulses from the atrioventricular node to the ventricles.
10. purkinje fibers Fibers that distribute the electrical impulse throughout the ventricles, causing them to contract.
11. coronary artery The artery that supplies oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle itself.
12. capillaries Small blood vessels where gas exchange occurs between blood and tissues.
13. pulmonary artery The artery that carries deoxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs.
14. pulmonary veins The veins that carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart.
15. systole The phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle contracts and pumps blood.
16. diastole The phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle relaxes and allows the chambers to fill with blood.
17. electrocardiogram A test that records the electrical activity of the heart over a period of time.
18. autonomic nervous system The part of the nervous system that regulates involuntary body functions, including heart rate.
19. vagus nerve A nerve that helps regulate the heart rate by slowing it down when necessary.
20. adrenaline A hormone that increases heart rate and blood pressure, preparing the body for 'fight or flight.'
21. cardiac output The volume of blood the heart pumps per minute.
22. stroke volume The amount of blood ejected by the left ventricle in one contraction.
23. bradycardia A slower than normal heart rate, typically fewer than 60 beats per minute in adults.
24. tachycardia A faster than normal heart rate, typically more than 100 beats per minute in adults.