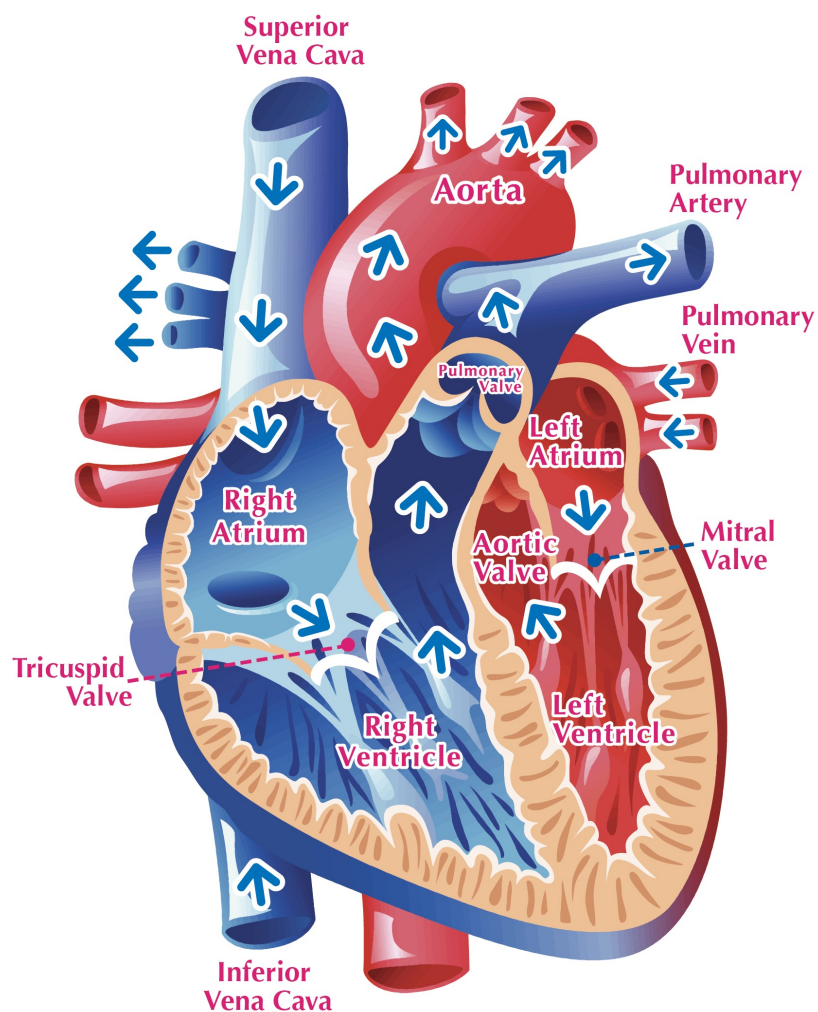


How the heart works

There is no living being on the planet that can survive without a functioning heart of some description. Although the heart itself is a very complex organ, when you look at its basic functions it really is just a big pump! A vital pump, yes, but basically it works like a pump.

The heart is divided into four sections also known as chambers. Each of the four chambers has a small valve that prevents the flow of blood backwards into the heart. The heart has a one way system for blood flow so that oxygenated and deoxygenated blood never mix in the chambers.

The **RIGHT SIDE** of the heart only ever pumps **deoxygenated** blood. The blood is sent to the lungs to collect oxygen and release carbon dioxide.



The **LEFT SIDE** of the heart collects the oxygen rich blood from the lungs and circulates it around the rest of the body.

Please note **LEFT** and **RIGHT** sides on the diagram are reversed because it's the left and right of the person who the heart belongs to .

The 2 lower chambers of the heart are both ventricles while the 2 smaller upper chambers are each atriums.