

# Vocabulary



**artery** a blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart

In almost all arteries, the blood carries a lot of oxygen. The artery that goes from the heart to the lungs is one exception. It carries blood with little oxygen.

**blood** a mixture of blood cells and liquid that carries oxygen, nutrients, and other materials throughout the body

Blood is a tissue. It has blood cells and platelets floating in a liquid called plasma. The red blood cells carry oxygen to cells. White blood cells fight disease. Platelets make blood clot when you get a cut.

**capillary** a tiny blood vessel that connects a small artery with a small vein

The capillaries are where oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged between the cells and the blood. A capillary is so thin that a single red blood cell can fit through it.

**heart** the organ that pumps blood throughout the body

The heart is made of muscle. It contracts over and over again for your entire lifetime.

**vein** a blood vessel that carries blood toward the heart

The blood in veins that go to the heart from the body carries little oxygen. The vein that goes to the heart from the lungs is an exception. It has blood with a lot of oxygen.