

The Respiratory System: Words to Know

Alveoli	Air sacs of the lungs.
Breathing	Process of inhaling and exhaling air.
Bronchi	Largest branch of the bronchial tree between the trachea and bronchioles.
Bronchial tree	Entire system of air passageways within the lungs formed by the branching of bronchial tubes.
Bronchioles	Smallest of the air passageways within the lungs.
Epiglottis	Flaplike piece of tissue at the top of the larynx that covers its opening when swallowing is occurring.
Esophagus	Muscular tube connecting the pharynx and stomach.
Exhalation	Also known as expiration, the movement of air out of the lungs.
Glottis	Opening of the larynx between the vocal cords.
Hemoglobin	Iron-containing protein pigment in red blood cells that can combine with oxygen and carbon dioxide.
Inhalation	Also known as inspiration, the movement of air into the lungs.
Larynx	Organ between the pharynx and trachea that contains the vocal cords.
Lungs	Paired breathing organs.
Nasal cavity	Air cavity in the skull through which air passes from the nostrils to the upper part of the pharynx.
Nasal septum	Vertical plate made of bone and cartilage that divides the nasal cavity.
Nose	Part of the human face that contains the nostrils and organs of smell and forms the beginning of the respiratory tract.
Nostril	Either of the two external openings of the nose.
Pharynx	Short, muscular tube extending from the mouth and nasal cavities to the trachea and esophagus.
Pleura	Membrane sac covering and protecting each lung.
Respiration	Exchange of gases (oxygen and carbon dioxide) between living cells and the environment.
Trachea	Also known as the windpipe, the respiratory tube extending from the larynx to the bronchi.