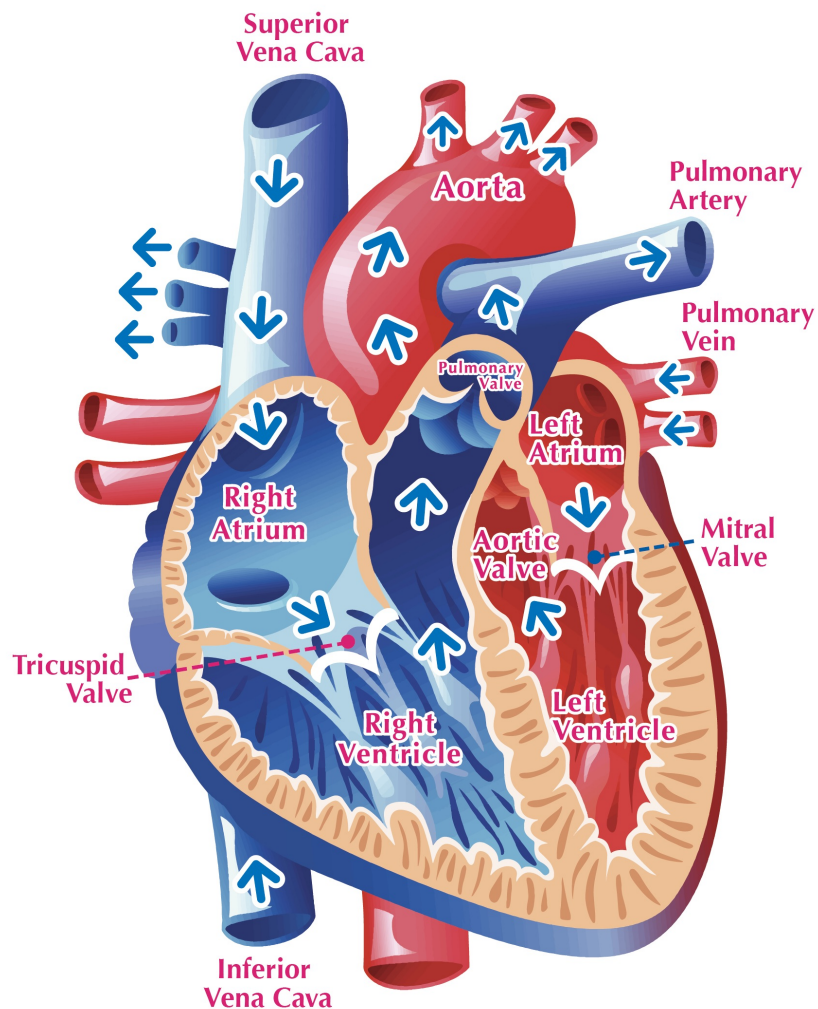


## How the heart works

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.