

9. Blood Flow Through the Heart

1. Blood enters the right atrium from the superior and inferior vena cava
2. The blood flows past the tricuspid valve (right AV, has 3 cusps) into the right ventricle
3. The ventricle contracts and pushes the blood past the pulmonary semilunar valve in the pulmonary arteries and goes towards the lungs.
4. Here, the blood picks up O_2 and loses CO_2 . This is now oxygenated blood.
5. Oxygenated blood returns to the heart via pulmonary veins
 - There are 4 pulmonary veins which dump blood into the left atrium
6. The blood flows past the bicuspid valve (left AV, has 2 cusps) into the left ventricle.
7. The ventricle contracts and pushes the blood past the aortic semilunar valve in the aorta to all parts of the body except the lungs.
8. Blood travels away from the heart via arteries.
9. Blood travels to the heart via veins.
10. Blood returns to the heart via the coronary sinus which drains into the right atrium.