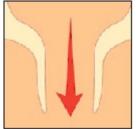
Understanding Heart Valves



The valve closes to stop blood from leaking back.



The valve opens to let blood move forward.

The heart contains four valves. The valves open and close to keep blood moving in the right direction through the heart. As the heart beats, blood moves through it. With each squeeze, the valves open and close to keep blood moving forward. In this way, valves keep blood moving as efficiently as possible through the heart.

Oxygen-poor blood from the body fills the right atrium.

Oxygen-rich blood from the lungs fills the left atrium.

squeezes, pushing blood through the aortic valve out to the body.

The left ventricle

The left atrium squeezes, pushing blood through the mitral valve into the left ventricle.

The right ventriclesqueezes, pushing blood through the pulmonic valve to the lungs.

> The right atrium squeezes, pushing / blood through the tricuspid valve into the right ventricle.