

BLOOD FLOW IN THE HEART

1. Blood enters the right atrium from superior and inferior vena cava.
2. Blood in the right atrium flows through the right AV valve (tricuspid) into the right ventricle.
3. Contraction of right ventricle forces pulmonary semilunar valve open.
4. Blood flows through pulmonary valve into pulmonary trunk.
5. Blood is distributed by right and left pulmonary arteries to the lungs, where it unloads CO₂ and loads Oxygen.
6. Blood returns from lungs, from pulmonary veins to left atrium.
7. Blood in the left atrium flows through the left AV valve (mitral) into the left ventricle.
8. Contraction of the left ventricle (simultaneous with Step 3) forces aortic semilunar valve to open.
9. Blood flows through the aortic valve into ascending aorta.
10. Blood in aorta is distributed to every organ in the body, where it unloads O and loads CO₂.
11. Blood returns to heart from vena cava

