

**The two atria are thin-walled chambers that receive blood from the veins.**

- The right atrium receives low-oxygen blood from body-system veins.
- The left atrium receives oxygen-rich blood from the pulmonary veins (from lungs).

**The two ventricles are thick-walled chambers that forcefully pump blood out of the heart.**

- The left ventricle is the largest and strongest chamber. The chamber walls of the left ventricle are only about a half-inch thick, but they have enough force to push blood through the aortic valve and into the body.
- The right ventricle pushes blood through the pulmonary valve into the lungs.

**The valves between the atria and ventricles are called atrioventricular valves (or cuspid valves).**

- The right atrioventricular valve is the **tricuspid valve**.
- The left atrioventricular valve is the **mitral valve** (also called the bicuspid valve).

**The valves at the bases of the large vessels leaving the ventricles are called semilunar valves.**

- The valve between the right ventricle and pulmonary trunk is the **pulmonary valve** (or pulmonic valve).
- The valve between the left ventricle and the aorta is the **aortic valve**.