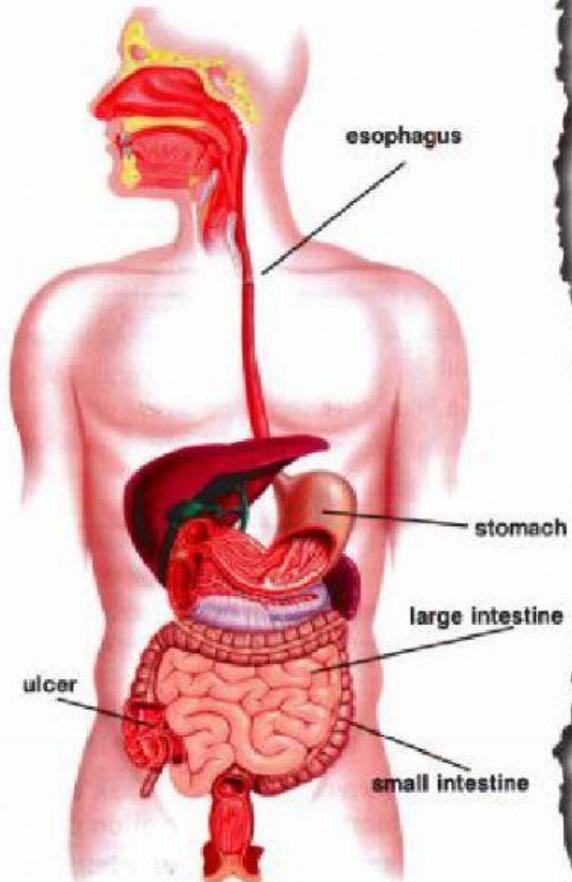




# ABDOMINAL PAINS



Dear Dr. Diane:

I've had persistent pains for two days. At first there was a dull stomach pain. Lately the pain has become sharper. I'm a little stressed out because of family and work. Friends say it might be an **ulcer**. Is it that serious?

- Painful in PA

## DIGESTIVE SYSTEM (12th grade)

### Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are the main parts of the digestive system?
- 2 What are possible problems that can occur in the digestive system?

### Reading

2 Read the advice column on abdominal pains. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What does the man write to the doctor about?
  - His ulcer will not heal.
  - His esophagus is burning.
  - He has increasing stomach pain.
  - He is concerned about a colonoscopy.
- 2 Which of the following is NOT a possible cause of the problem?
  - an ulcer
  - appendicitis
  - an irritated colon
  - an inflamed small intestine
- 3 Why does the doctor say pain in the stomach should be taken seriously?
  - The problem could spread.
  - The pain could have several causes.
  - The man could die from the condition.
  - The treatment could take weeks to work.

### Vocabulary

Dear Painful in PA:

Always take persistent pains seriously. Persistent pain could mean an ulcer. Pain between the heart and stomach might mean an **esophagus** problem. Pain lower in the abdomen could mean **appendicitis**. The appendix is between the **small intestine** and **large intestine**. It sometimes becomes inflamed, and causes real problems. It's part of the **digestive system**. But its function is unknown and it can be removed without any consequences.

Your doctor may want to perform a **colonoscopy**. That will check your colon and intestines for any serious problems.

- Dr. Diane

20

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

1	— appendicitis	4	— stomach
2	— colonoscopy	5	— digestive system
3	— esophagus		

A a pouch-like organ between the esophagus and small intestine.  
B a condition where the appendix becomes inflamed  
C a muscular tube connecting the mouth to the stomach  
D a medical procedure which examines the inside of the colon  
E a system of organs which processes food, nutrients, and waste

4 Read the sentence pair. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.

1 **small intestine / large intestine**

A The \_\_\_\_\_ removes excess water from food as it is turned into waste.  
B Nutrients are absorbed from food as it passes through the \_\_\_\_\_.

2 **ulcer / colon**

A Jane was worried that her illness had left her stomach susceptible to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
B Much of the bacteria found in the \_\_\_\_\_ exists harmlessly in the body.

Keep Up  
The  
Good  
Work

