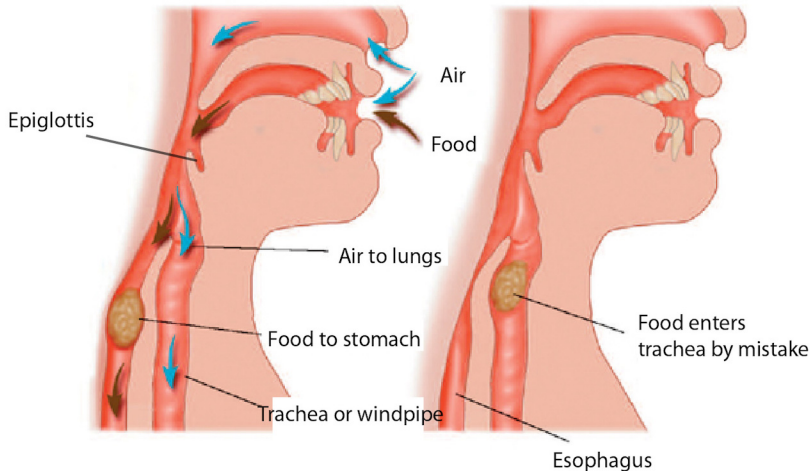


Choking Anatomy



- In the back of the mouth are two openings.
- One is the [esophagus](#), which leads to the stomach; food goes down this pathway.
- The other is the [trachea](#), which is the opening air must pass through to get to the lungs.
- When swallowing occurs, the trachea is covered by a flap called the [epiglottis](#), which prevents food from entering the lungs.