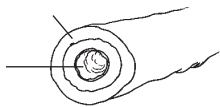






Blood Vessels

Blood vessels are rubbery tubes that carry the blood around the body.

The three types of blood vessels are **arteries**, **veins** and **capillaries**.

Blood vessel	Function
<p style="text-align: center;">artery</p> <p>thick, elastic wall small lumen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thick-walled blood vessel • carries blood rich in oxygen from the heart to other parts of the body (aorta) <p> Extra There is an artery that carries blood containing little oxygen from the heart to the lungs to pick up more oxygen to be circulated round the body. It is called the pulmonary artery.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">capillary</p> <p>single cell wall</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very thin-walled, narrow blood vessel which connects blood flowing from the arteries to the veins <p>The thin walls enable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oxygen, digested food and water to pass from the capillary into the body cells • carbon dioxide and waste materials to pass from the body cells into the bloodstream to be removed
<p style="text-align: center;">vein</p> <p>thin wall large lumen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thin-walled blood vessel • carries blood rich in carbon dioxide back to the heart to be removed (vena cava) <p> Extra There is a vein that carries blood containing oxygen from the lungs to the heart. It is called the pulmonary vein.</p>