

Human Gas Exchange System

Air enters and leaves the body through the **nose** and **mouth**.

The **ribcage** protects the lungs and other organs in the chest.

The **lungs** are a pair of spongy organs where gas exchange takes place.

The **diaphragm** is a flat muscle that sits underneath the ribcage. It contracts and relaxes to cause air to move into and out of the lungs.

Air travels through the **trachea** (windpipe).

Intercostal muscles are found between the ribs. They contract and relax to allow the ribcage to move.

The trachea splits into a left and right **bronchus**. Each bronchus leads into one of the lungs.

The bronchi split further into smaller branches called **bronchioles**.

Clusters of air sacs called **alveoli** provide a large surface area for gas exchange.

