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### Salivary glands in the cheeks

**Parotid** - located in the cheeks in front of the ears

**Submandibular** - located under the lower jaw

**Sublingual** - located under the tongue

All 3 produce saliva carried by ducts that emerge behind the lower front teeth

**Saliva** - a calcium rich substance that when mixed with bacteria forms plaque on the teeth. It begins the digestion process by using ptyalin to convert starch into maltose.

### 5 different functions of the tongue

**Taste** - There are 4 sets of chemical sensors called taste buds that screen food for nutrients and poisons. You lose 1/3 of your taste buds by the time you hit puberty and you lose another 1/3 by old age.

**Bitter** - detects chemical bases which are often poisonous

**Sour** - detects acids like ascorbic acid (vitamin C)

**Salt** - important to maintain body chemistry

**Sweet** - detects carbohydrates which are important sources of

energy

**Helps you chew** - it holds your food against your teeth

**Helps you swallow**

**Cleans the inner surface of your teeth**

**It is essential for speech**

