

Understand the location, origin, insertion and nerve supply for:

- Temporalis
- Masseter
- Medial Pterygoid
- Lateral Pterygoid

Action of these four muscles

The initial phase of mechanical digestion takes place in the oral cavity and is known as mastication (chewing).

The teeth bite off chunks of food which are ground between the teeth.

This action induces the secretion of saliva.

The tongue mixes the chewed food with the saliva, ensuring that it is moistened and reduced into a soft pulp.

When it reaches the stomach, enzymes and acid continue to chemically breakdown the food.

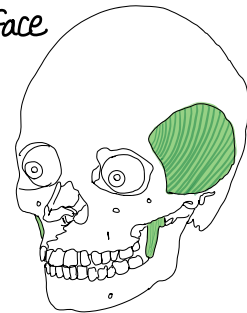
The muscles of mastication are the strong muscles involved in chewing; they forcibly open and close the the mandible (jaw) as well as move it forwards and backwards and from side to side. They include:

- ① Temporalis: A large, fan shaped muscle on the lateral surface of the head.

Origin → Temporal bone; inferior temporal lines

Insertion → Mandible: coronoid process

Action → Elevate and retract the mandible

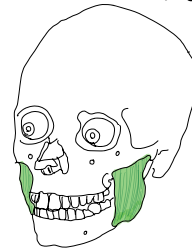


- ② Masseter: A powerful, oblong muscle located on the side of the face.

Origin → Zygomatic bone: arch

Insertion → mandible: ramus

Action → Elevate the mandible



- ③ Medial Pterygoid: A rectangular muscle located deep to the mandible

Origin → Sphenoid bone: lateral pterygoid plate. Maxilla. Palatine bone

Insertion → mandible: angle

Action → Opens and closes the jaw. Moves the jaw from side to side and forwards to backwards.

