

# SECTION #3

## **TERMINOLOGY AND HOW IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS**

# TERMINOLOGY

**AIRWAY:** the path air follows in and out of lungs; through nose and/or mouth, through throat, down trachea, and out to lungs

**TRACHEA:** “respiratory tract” (wind pipe) in front of esophagus (food tube)

**EPIGLOTTIS:** the flap that covers the trachea to keep food, fluid and foreign objects out of the lungs

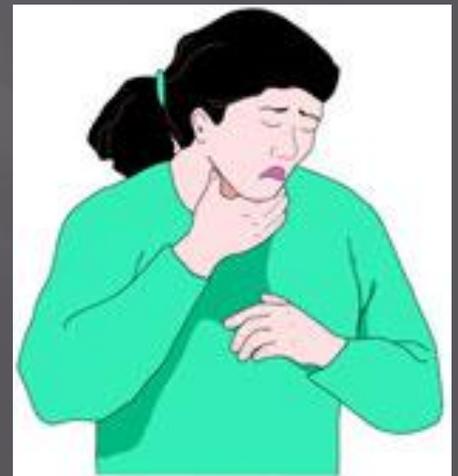
# HOW DOES ASPIRATION ACTUALLY HAPPEN?

That flap of cartilage at the base of the tongue called the epiglottis normally covers the opening to the air passage when swallowing, preventing food and liquids from entering the trachea

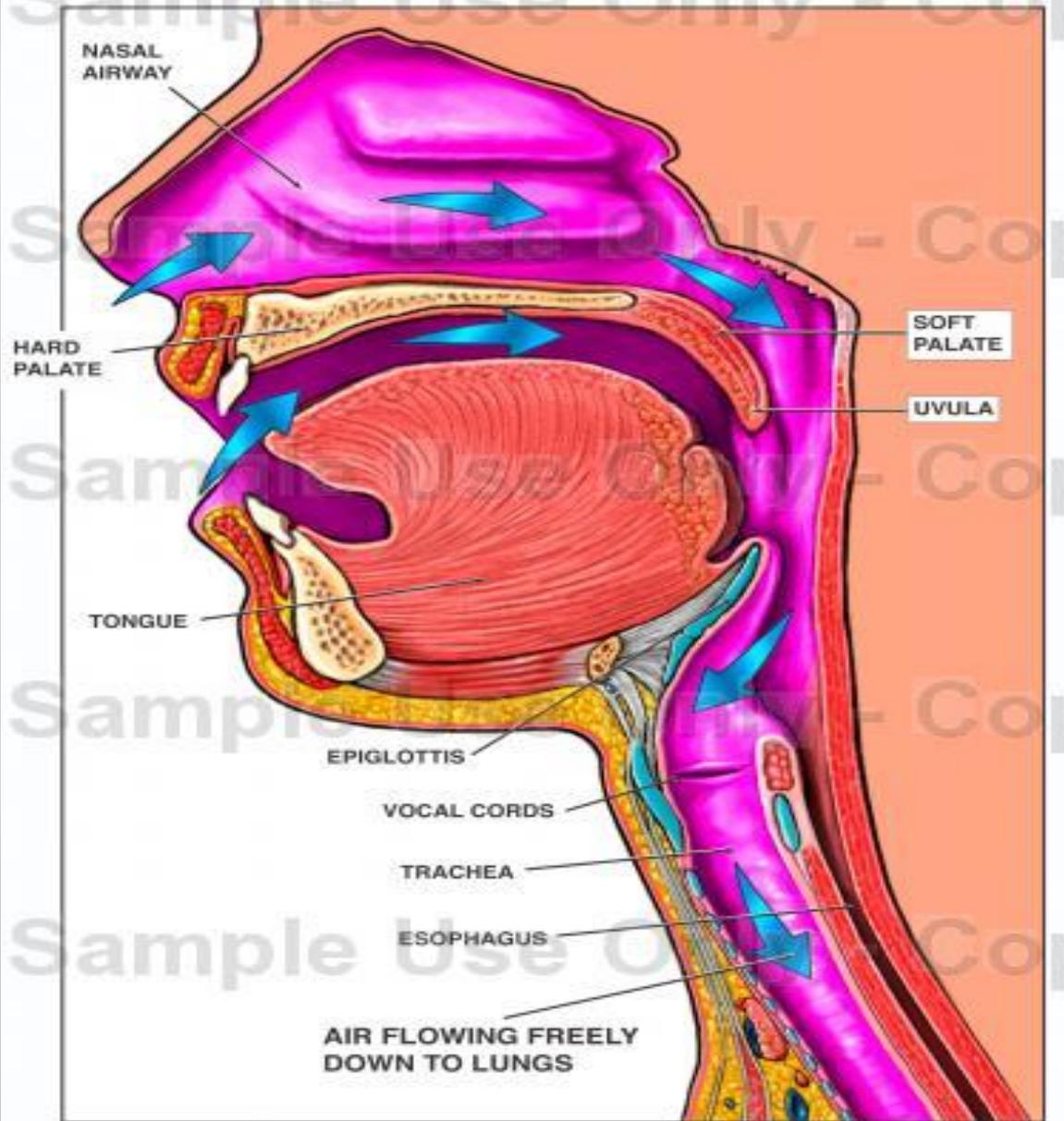
When you swallow, the epiglottis closes like a door over the trachea

When the epiglottis doesn't close in time, food and/or fluid go into the trachea and you cough or choke

That is ... **ASPIRATION!**



# Anatomy of Upper Airway



MID-SAGITTAL (CUT-AWAY) VIEWS OF UPPER RESPIRATORY PATHWAY