Glossary

B.2. Structure of the Heart

Cardio	Heart as in 'cardiology'
Atrium	Space in the heart where the blood is collected from the veins (plural = atri.
Ventricle	Space in the heart where the blood is pumped out into the arteries
Atrial septum	Dividing muscle wall between the left and right atria
Ventricular septum	Dividing muscle wall between the left and right ventricles
Annulus fibrosus	A fibrotic ring located between the atria and the ventricles in the heart. This ring consists of fibrotic fibers, which do not conduct action potentials, effectively isolating electrically the ventricles from the atria, and the four cardiac valves.
Atrio-ventricular valves	Also called AV-valves. Valves that determine the passage of blood from the atria to the ventricles.
Semi-lunar valves	Also called SL-valves. Valves that determine the passage of blood from the ventricles to the arteries. Since they have the shape of a half-moon, they are called 'semi-lunar' ('lunar' = moon).
Mitral valve	The atrio-ventricular valve located in the left heart, between the left atrium and the left ventricle. Because it resembles the two sides of a bishop's hat (= a miter), it was called 'mitral'.
Tricuspid valve	The atrio-ventricular valve located in the right heart, between the right atrium and the right ventricle. It contains three cusps ('tri' = three).
Papillary muscles	Muscles located in the ventricles, attached to the ventricular wall and connected to the AV-valves by the chordae tendinae.
Chordae tendinea.	Tendons stringed between the papillary muscles and the cusps of the AV-valves in the two cardiac ventricles.