

Parts of a Bone

Head	(epiphysis)	epi: upon	rounded portion at either ends
Neck	(metaphysis)	meta: after/subsequent to	widest part of a long bone
Body	(diaphysis)	dia: through, throughout	refers to the central shaft running between the proximal and distal ends of the bone
Articular Surface			area of the bone that comes in close proximity with the neighbouring bones

Projections and Parts

Condyle	Condyles are rounded knobs that form articulations with other bones. They often provide structural support to the articular surface, helping to absorb the force exerted at the joint	Ex: The lateral condyle of femur is one example, which is easily palpable at the knee
Epicondyle	Epicondyle is a bony area on or above a condyle. It serves mainly as an area for a muscle or ligament attachment.	Ex: medial epicondyle of humerus.
Process	A process is a bulging bony outgrowth of a larger bone	Ex: is the mastoid process, which is easily palpable from behind the ear, and to which many head muscles are attached
Protuberance	Protuberances, similar to processes, are swelling, bulging or protruding parts of bone.	Ex: external occipital protuberance, Jutting out from the midline of the external surface, it is palpable from the back of the head
Tubercle	A tubercle is a small rounded prominence, often a site of tendon or ligament attachment	Ex: adductor tubercle of femur
Tuberosity	A tuberosity is larger, found in varying shapes and often rough in texture	Ex: ulnar tuberosity
Trochanter	This landmark is present only in the femur and it refers to a very large, blunt, irregularly shaped process of the femur that serves as an attachment point for muscles and ligaments	Ex: On the femur there is a greater trochanter and a less prominent lesser trochanter
Spine	The spine (or spinous process) is a sharp, slender projection of the bone which is useful for attachment of muscles or ligaments	Ex: spine of sphenoid bone



Projections and Parts (cont)

Linea (line)	The term linea refers to a subtle, long, and narrow impression which distinguishes itself in elevation, color or texture from surrounding tissues	Ex: linea aspera of femur
Facet	The facet is a flat smooth area of the bone which serves as an articular surface	Ex: acromial facet of clavicle
Crests	Crests can be described as prominent, raised edges of a bone. They are of medium thickness and often found at sites where connective tissue connects muscle and bone	Ex: iliac crest is one example. Found inferior to the quadratus lumborum, for which it serves as the origin point
Ridges	Ridges are linear elevations, margins or borders	Ex: lateral supracondylar ridge of humerus

Openings and Depressions

Foramen	Foramina (sing: foramen) are holes or openings in a bone, usually through which nerves and blood vessels pass	Ex: jugular foramen is one example through which the inferior petrosal sinus, sigmoid sinus, glossopharyngeal, vagus and accessory nerves pass
Fissure	Fissures are open slits, grooves or depressions in a bone, often housing nerves and blood vessels	Ex: inferior orbital fissure. Separating the floor from the lateral wall, it gives passage to structures like the zygomatic nerve and orbital branches of the pterygopalatine ganglion
Meatus	A meatus is a short, tube-like channel extending into the bone. It can provide passage and protection to nerves and vessels.	Ex: the external acoustic meatus, also known as the ear canal, which connects the middle and outer ear
Fossa	A fossa is a depression in the bone surface which is often broad and shallow. It may support brain structures, or receive another articulating bone.	Ex: temporal fossa, is one of the largest landmarks on the skull, serving as an origin site for the temporal muscle
Fovea	Fovea refers to a pit or depression - similar to a fossa, but generally much smaller	Ex: the fovea capitis, found in the center of the head of the femur
Notch (incisure)	Notches (or incisures) can be defined as indentations at the edge of a structure, like a cleft	Ex: capular notch, which forms a deep, distinctive depression along the superolateral border of the scapula



Openings and Depressions (cont)

Sulcus	A sulcus is a furrow or fissure usually specific to the surface of the brain, but also in bones and other organs. When referring to bones, sulci are very often referred to as grooves. Grooves often trace the length of nerves or vessels, providing space to prevent compression from surrounding muscles or external forces.	Ex: groove for the transverse sinus
Sinus	A sinus is a cavity or hollow space.	Ex: paranasal sinuses, a group of four paired, bilateral sinuses in the nasal cavity.



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