

Divisions of the Skeletal System

The human skeleton consists of 206 named bones grouped into two principal divisions:

- Axial skeleton (80 bones)
- Appendicular skeleton (126 bones)

Divisions of the Skeletal System

The axial skeleton:

 Skull bones, auditory ossicles (ear bones), hyoid bone, ribs, sternum (breastbone), and bones of the vertebral column.

The appendicular skeleton:

 Bones of the upper and lower limbs (extremities) and the bones forming the girdles that connect the limbs to the axial skeleton.

Divisions of the Skeletal System

Anatomy Overview:

The Skeletal System

You must be connected to the Internet and in Slideshow Mode to run this animation.

Types of Bones

Almost all bones are classified into 5 main types based on shape:

- Long (greater seed length than width
- Short (cube shaped)
- Flat (thin layers of parallel plates)
- Irregular (complex shapes)
- Sesamoid (shaped like a sesame seed)



Types of Bones

Sutural bones are small, extra bone plates located within the sutures of cranial bones. **Sutures** are the jointed areas where flat bones come together.



Bone Surface Markings

Bones have characteristic surface markings – structural features adapted for specific functions.

There are two major types of surface markings:

Depressions and openings

- Allow the passage of soft tissues
- Form joints
- Processes
 - Projections or outgrowths that form joints
 - Serve as attachment points for ligaments and tendons



Bone Surface Markings

Foramen: Hole for passage of blood vessels, nerves or ligaments.











4











Bone Surface Markings Epicondyle: Usually roughened projection on a condyle. Line: Long, narrow ridge or border (less prominent than a crest





Bone Surface Markings

Tuberosity: Variably sized projection with rough, bumpy surface.





Skull

The skull contains 22 bones, not including the 3 middle ear bones in both ears. Associated with these bones are a number of processes, ridges, lines, depressions and foramen.























The Mandible

The mandible (lower jawbone) is the largest and strongest facial bone. Other than the middle ear bones (auditory ossicles) it is the only moveable skull bone.

The Paranasal Sinuses

The **paranasal sinuses** are mucous membrane-lined cavities in the frontal, maxillary, sphenoid and ethmoid bones. They are used as resonating (echo) chambers to enhance the voice as well as structures that increase the surface area of the nasal mucosa and help to moisten it as well.

Fontanels

Fontanels are mesenchyme-filled spaces between cranial bones present at birth. They close up beginning at 6 months of age through 2 years (depending on the fontanel).

Intervertebral discs separate the vertebrae from one another. They are located between the bodies of the vertebrae from the second cervical to the sacrum. Each disc has an outer ring of fibrocartilage (*annulus fibrosus*) which surrounds soft, pulpy nucleus (*nucleus pulposus*). The top and bottom of each disc has a layer of hyaline cartilage. They are used to absorb shock and create spaces between vertebrae.

A typical vertebra is composed of several parts. Vertebrae from each region, in addition to containing common structures, have unique structures that help to identify which type they are. In addition, the first 2 **cervical vertebrae** are different from the others in shape and function.

The **thoracic vertebrae** support the ribs and have special structures for rib head and tubercle attachment.

The Vertebral Column

The **lumbar vertebrae** are the largest and strongest in the vertebral column. They support the body's weight. There are no special structures that are specifically associated with these vertebrae.

The triangular-shaped **sacrum** is composed of 5 vertebrae that begin to fuse together between 16 and 18 years of age. The process ends at around 30 years of age. It is part of the pelvic girdle.

The **coccyx** is also triangular in shape and is composed of 4 vertebrae that fuse together between 20 and 30 years of age.

Thoracic Bones

The **sternum**, or **breastbone**, is flat and is located in the center of the anterior thoracic wall. It is divided into three segments: The upper **manubrium**, the middle **body** and the lower **xiphoid process**. The three bones usually fuse by 25 years of age. The sternum articulates with the clavicles and the costal cartilages from the ribs.

Thoracic Bones

The **ribs** provide support to the thoracic cavity. There are twelve pairs that extend from the thoracic vertebrae to the sternum. The bony portion ends a few inches from the sternum and is connected to costal (hyaline) cartilage which attaches to the sternum. The first 7 pairs are called the **true ribs** because their cartilage is directly connected to the sternum. The next 5 pairs are called false ribs because their cartilage is indirectly connected to the sternum (pairs 8– 10) or not connected at all (pairs 11 and 12)

Disorders

Many disorders may occur that affect the skeleton in one form or another. In the vertebral column, a **herniated disc** may occur due to trauma or, sometimes, simply associated with aging. In these cases, the *nucleus pulposus* is able to leak out due to a tear in the *annulus fibrosus*.

Disorders

At times, the normal curves of the spinal column may become exaggerated. There are many causes for these changes. These curve-related pathologies include:

- Scoliosis (increased lateral curvature)
- Kyphosis (increased thoracic curve-bent forward)
- Lordosis (increased lumbar curve-bent backwards)

Disorders

Spina bifida is a congenital defect of the vertebral column where the laminae do not develop normally. The degrees of this deformity vary from minor (*spina bifida occulta*) to severe (*spina bifida with meningomyelocele*). In the latter case, a cystlike sac containing the meninges, cerebrospinal fluid and the spinal cord and/or its nerve roots protrudes from the spinal column.

End of Chapter 7

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