

#### **II. JOINTS**

- Are places of union between two or more bones.
- Are innervated as follows: the nerve supplying a joint also supplies the muscles that move the joint and the skin covering the insertion of such muscles (Hilton law).
- Are classified based on their structural features into fibrous, cartilaginous, and synovial types.



#### A. Fibrous joints (synarthroses)

Are joined by fibrous tissue, have no joint cavities, and permit little movement.

1. Sutures

Are connected by fibrous connective tissue, such as the fibrous continuities between the flat bones of the skull.

2. Syndesmoses

Are connected by dense fibrous connective tissue.

Occur as the inferior tibiofibular syndesmoses and tympanostapedial syndesmoses (between the foot plate of the stapes and the oval window in the middle ear).







B. Cartilaginous joints

Are united by cartilage and have no joint cavity.

1. Primary cartilaginous joints (synchondrosas)

Are united by hyaline cartilage and permit little to no movement but allow for growth in length during childhood and adolescence.

Include epiphyseal cartilage plates (the union between the epiphysis and the diaphysis of a growing bone) and sphenooccipital and manubriosternal synchondroses.



2. Secondary cartilaginous joints (symphyses) Are joined by fibrocartilage and are slightly movable joints.

Are all located in the median plane and include the pubic symphysis and the intervertebral disks.

c. Synovial (diarthrodial) joints

- Are found between two separate skeletal elements
- ✤ and permit certain degrees of movement according to the shape of the articulation and/ or the type of movement.
- Are characterized by four structural features:
- $\checkmark$  joint cavity or space,
- ✓ articular (hyaline) cartilage,
- ✓ synovial membrane, which produces synovial fluid,
- $\checkmark$  and articular capsule.



# **GLIDING JOINT**

Also known as a plane joint or planar joint

- Is a common type of synovial joint formed between bones that meet at flat or nearly flat articular surfaces.
- Gliding joints allow the bones to glide past one another in any direction along the plane of the joint – up and down, left and right, and diagonally.
- Slight rotations can also occur at these joints, but are limited by:<sup>1.</sup> the shape of the bones and the elasticity of the joint capsule surrounding them.
- Unlike most synovial joints, the angle formed between the bones at a gliding joint does not change significantly – just their position relative to one another.

#### EXAMPLES

THE TWO MAIN EXAMPLES OF GLIDING JOINTS

- $\checkmark$  The lower leg to the ankle joint
- $\checkmark$  The forearm to wrist joint





2. Hinge (ginglymus) jointsResemble door hingesand allow only flexion and extension.Occur in the elbow, ankle, andinterphalangeal joints.



- 3. Pivot (trochoid) joints
- Are formed by a central bony pivot turning within a bony ring
- ✦Allow only rotation

(movement around a single longitudinal axis).

♦ Occur in :

the superior and inferior radio ulnar jointsand in the atlantoaxial joint.





#### 4. Condylar (ellipsoidal) joints

- □ Have two convex condyles articulating with two concave condyles. (The shape of the articulation is ellipsoidal.)
- $\hfill \Box$  Allow flexion and extension
- and occur in the wrist (radiocarpal), metacarpophalangeal,
- $\Box$  knee ( tibiofemoral),
- □ and atlanto-occipital joints.

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Superior articular facet of first vertebra

Condyloid, or Ellipsoidal, Joints





5. Saddle (sellar) joints
Resemble the shape of a
horse's saddle
Occur in the
carpometacarpal joint of the
thumb and between the
femur and patella.

Allow:
> flexion/extension,
> abduction/adduction,
> and circumduction, but no axial rotation.



6. Ball-and-socket (spheroidal or cotyloid) joints Are formed by the reception of a globular (ball-like) head into a cup-shaped cavity and allow movement in many directions. Allow flexion and extension, abduction and adduction, medial and lateral rotations, and circumduction and occur in the shoulder and hip joints.



