

Joints

Joints and Classification of joints

- A joint, also called an *articulation* or arthrosis, is a point of contact between two bones, between bone and cartilage, or between bone and teeth. The scientific study of joints is termed *arthrology*.
- Joints are classified structurally, based on their anatomical characteristics, and functionally, based on the type of movement they permit

Structurally, joints are classified as one of the following types:

- **Fibrous joints:** There is no synovial cavity, and the bones are held together by dense irregular connective tissue that is rich in collagen fibers.
- **Cartilaginous joints:** There is no synovial cavity, and the bones are held together by cartilage.
- **Synovial joints:** The bones forming the joint have a synovial cavity and are united by the dense irregular connective tissue of an articular capsule, and often by accessory ligaments

Functional classification of joints relates to the degree of movement they permit

Functionally, joints are classified as one of the following types:

- **Synarthrosis** (syn- = together): An immovable joint. The plural is synarthroses.
- **Amphiarthrosis** (amphi- = on both sides): A slightly movable joint. The plural is amphiarthroses.
- **Diarthrosis** (= movable joint): A freely movable joint. The plural is diarthroses. *All diarthroses are synovial joints.* They have a variety of shapes and permit several different types of movements.