

G. Vocabulary

This list will help you review many of the new terms introduced in the text. Short definitions will reinforce your understanding of the terms. See Section IX of this chapter for help in pronouncing the more difficult terms.

acetabulum	Rounded depression, or socket, in the pelvis, which joins the femur (thigh bone), forming the hip joint.
acromion	Outward extension of the shoulder bone forming the point of the shoulder. It overlies the shoulder joint and articulates with the clavicle.
articular cartilage	Thin layer of cartilage occurring at the ends of long bones and covering any part of any bone that comes together with another bone to form a joint.
bone	Dense, hard connective tissue composing the skeleton. Examples are long bones (femur), short bones (carpals), flat bones (scapula), and sesamoid bones (patella).
calcium	One of the mineral constituents of bone. Calcium phosphate is the major calcium salt in bones.
cancellous bone	Spongy, porous, trabecular bone.

cartilaginous tissue (cartilage)	Flexible, rubbery connective tissue. It is found in the immature skeleton at the epiphyseal growth plate and on joint surfaces.
collagen	Dense connective tissue strands found in bone.
compact bone	Hard, dense bone tissue.
condyle	Knuckle-like process at the end of a bone near the joint.
cranial bones	Skull bones: ethmoid, frontal, occipital, parietal, sphenoid, and temporal.
diaphysis	Shaft, or midportion, of a long bone.
disk (disc)	Flat, round, plate-like structure. An intervertebral disk is a fibrocartilaginous substance between two vertebrae.
epiphyseal plate	Cartilaginous area at the ends of long bones where lengthwise growth takes place in the immature skeleton.
epiphysis	Each end of a long bone; the area beyond the epiphyseal plate.
facial bones	Bones of the face: lacrimal, mandible, maxillae, nasal, vomer, and zygomatic.
fissure	Narrow, slit-like opening in or between bones.
fontanelle	Soft spot (incomplete bone formation) between the skull bones of an infant.
foramen	Opening or passage in bones where blood vessels, nerves, or both enter and leave. The foramen magnum is the opening of the occipital bone through which the spinal cord passes.
fossa	Shallow cavity in a bone.
haversian canals	Minute spaces filled with blood vessels; found in compact bone.
malleolus	Round process on both sides of the ankle joint. The lateral malleolus is part of the fibula, and the medial malleolus is part of the tibia.
manubrium	Upper portion of the sternum; articulates with the medial aspect of the clavicle.
mastoid process	Round projection on the temporal bone behind the ear.
medullary cavity	Central, hollowed-out area in the shaft of a long bone.
metaphysis	The flared portion of a long bone, lying between the diaphysis (shaft) and the epiphyseal plate (meta- means between).
olecranon	Large process on the proximal end of the ulna; the point of the flexed elbow.

osseous tissue	Bone tissue.
ossification	Process of bone formation.
osteoblast	Bone cell that helps form bone tissue.
osteoclast	Bone cell that absorbs and removes unwanted bone tissue.
periosteum	Membrane surrounding bones; rich in blood vessels and nerve tissue.
phosphorus	Mineral substance found in bones in combination with calcium.
pubic symphysis	Area of confluence (coming together) of the two pubic bones. They are joined (sym- means together, -physis means to grow) by a fibrocartilaginous disc.
red bone marrow	Found in cancellous bone; site of hematopoiesis.
ribs	These 24 elongated, curved bones form the bony wall of the chest. True ribs are the first 7 pairs; false ribs are pairs 8-10; floating ribs are pairs 11 and 12.
sella turcica	Depression in the sphenoid bone where the pituitary gland is located.
sinus	Hollow cavity within a bone.
styloid process	Pole-like process on the temporal bone.
suture	Joint between bones, such as the skull (cranium).
temporomandibular joint	Connection between the temporal base of the skull and mandibular bone of the jaw.
trabeculae	Supporting bundles of bony fibers in cancellous (spongy) bone.
trochanter	Large process on lateral proximal aspect of the femur; attachment site for muscles and tendons.
tubercle	Rounded process on bone; attachment site for muscles and tendons.
tuberosity	Rounded process on bone; attachment site for muscles and tendons.
vertebra	An individual backbone composed of the vertebral body, vertebral arch, spinous process, transverse process, lamina, and neural canal.
xiphoid process	Lower, narrow portion of the sternum.
yellow bone marrow	Fatty tissue found in the diaphyses of long bones in older individuals.