Before you look up details and information within a chapter, read the **Chapter-Opening Roadmap**, which visually groups and organizes “big picture” concepts and shows how they are related. To focus your studying, review the numbered **Key Concept Headings, Learning Outcomes**, and summaries.

**Joints**

Joints are classified into three structural and three functional categories.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Define joint or articulation.
- Classify joints by structure and by function.

Joints are classified by structure and by function. The structural classification focuses on the materials binding the bones together and whether or not a joint cavity is present. Structurally, there are fibrous, cartilaginous, and synovial joints. (Table 8.1 on p. 285). Only synovial joints have a joint cavity. The functional classification is based on the amount of movement allowed at the joint. On this basis, there are synarthroses (sin-ar-thro-zae; syn = together, arthros = joint), which are immovable joints; amphiarthroses (am-fe-ar-thro-zae; amphi = on both sides), slightly movable joints; and diarthroses (di-ar-thro-zae; dia = through, apart), or freely movable joints. Freely movable joints predominate in the appendicular skeleton (limbs). Immovable and slightly movable joints are largely restricted to the axial skeleton. This localization of functional joint types makes sense because the less movable the joint, the more stable it is likely to be. In general, fibrous joints are immovable, and synovial joints are freely movable. However, cartilaginous joints have both rigid...

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