

Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

General Terms

Abduction	Movement away from the midline, in the median plane
Above	Stratigraphically higher plane than the corpse
Adduction	Movement towards the midline, in the median plane
Anatomical connection	Preservation of a joint between two bones: are in physical proximity and allowing for soft tissue decomposition have maintained their relationship
Anatomical location/orientation	A skeletal elements position in anatomical position
Anatomical position	Skeletal remains corresponding to a position prescribed in the <i>Terminologia Anatomica</i> . Limbs extended, hands supinated, cranium and mandible on midline facing forwards.
Anterior	Towards the front, separated by coronal plane, can refer to a position of a limb/bone in relationship to another, x, or a direction of movement
Appendicular	Limbs, shoulder and pelvis – scapulae, humeri, radii, ulnae, ossa coxae, femur, tibiae, fibulae, patellae, bones of the hands and feet
Articulation	An area of a bone where via soft tissue it connects with another bone to form a joint
Axial	Head and trunk of body – cranium, mandible, vertebrae, clavicles, sternum, ribs, sacrum
Beneath/below	Stratigraphically lower plane than the corpse
Completeness	Proportion of overall skeletal elements present
Coronal plane	Divides the body into anterior and posterior halves, at right angles to the midline
Disarticulation	A loss of soft tissue holding the joint together
Displaced/displacement	Deviation of skeletal elements from anatomical/original position
Distal	End of the bone furthest away from the axial skeleton
Dorsal	Top of the foot or back of the hand, also relates to surface of hand/foot bones
Extended	Straightening movement that increase the angle between two body parts
External void	A space that exists or is created outside the original body volume
Extrinsic	External to
Facing	The direction of the facial bones
Flexed	Bending movement that decreases the angle between two body parts
Inferior	Away from the head. Can refer to a region of a bone or direction of movement, in transverse plane
In-filling	The movement of sediment into the voids of a corpse left by the decomposition of soft tissue
Internal void	A space that exists or is created within the original volume of the body
Intrinsic	Internal to
Labile joint	A joint which disarticulates rapidly in relation to other joints

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Lateral	Away from the midline in the median plane. Can refer to a region of a bone or a direction of movement
Left	Skeletons left
Maintenance/maintained	Where a bone is in an approximately original position, which is unstable under gravity
Medial	Towards the midline in the median plane. Can refer to a region of a bone or direction of movement
Median/Sagittal plane	Divides body into equal right and left sides
Neutral	A position of the forearm and hand midway between pronation and supination
Not visible in image	Skeletal element is either unclear due to damage, obscured by image angle or lack of definition of excavation, or is absent from the image
Oblique angle	Neither parallel or at a right angle to the median plane
Palmar	Palm side of the hand/bone
Persistent joint	A joint which disarticulates more slowly in relation to other joints
Plantar	Sole of the foot/ surface of the bone
Plantar flexion	A flexing of the anterior part of the foot, inferiorly at the ankle
Posterior	Towards the back of a skeletal element in the coronal plane, can refer to a position of a limb/bone in relationship to another, x, or a direction of movement
Primary burial	Burial of a corpse in anatomical integrity, in a location where decomposition takes place
Pronated	Rotation of the forearm so the palm is facing posteriorly
Prone	Lying on the front, the anterior surface is now posterior (face down)
Proximal	End of the bone nearest the axial skeleton
Right	Skeletons right
Rotation	The movement of a skeletal element, limb or body about an axis
Secondary burial	A planned manipulation/movement of bones from the location in which primary burial and decomposition occurred to other location/s over an indefinite period of time
Stable	A skeletal element is in a position of balance under gravity, would not be expected to move unless disturbed by another agent
Superior	Towards the head. Can refer to a region of a bone or a direction of movement, in transverse plane
Support	Where a skeletal element is in a displaced position that under gravity would be unstable
Supine	Lying face upwards on posterior surface, limbs extended
Thoracic volume	Original area occupied in a fleshed corpse by the thorax
Transverse plane	Pass through any place along the body but always vertical to the to the median and coronal planes
Tumble	The bones are displaced in such a way to be rotated and mixed up within a limited area, moving away from anatomical connections
Unstable	A skeletal element is in a position that unless supported by external agent it could not sustain under gravity
Upper limb	Humerus, radius, ulna and hand bones

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Verticalisation	Whereby the clavicles are positioned in a way that the acromial end is superior and medially displaced and the sternal end inferiorly. Creating an acute angle with mid line
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(*Terminologia Anatomica* 1998; Duday 2009; White et al. 2012; Knüsel 2014)

Skeletal elements

Clavicle (4)	Commonly referred to as the collar bone
Cranium (1)	Mistakenly referred to as the skull. Comprises 28 articulated or fused bones
Femur (15)	Plural femora, commonly referred to as the thigh bone
Fibula (18)	Plural fibulae
Foot (19)	Tarsal bones – calcaneus, talus, cuboid, navicular, latera cuneiform, intermediate cuneiform and medial cuneiform, metatarsal bones and phalanges
Forearm	Radius and ulna
Hand (10)	Includes, carpals – scaphoid, lunate, hamate, triquetral, pisiform trapezium, trapezoid, capitate – metacarpals, and phalanges
Head	Refers to the cranium and mandible in a fleshed body
Humerus (7)	Plural humeri, superior bone of the upper limb
Hyoid	
Mandible (2)	Commonly referred to as the lower jaw
Os coxae (13)	Plural ossa coxae, can commonly be referred to as the hip bone
Radius (8)	Plural radii
Ribs (12)	
Patella (16)	Plural patellae, commonly referred to as the knee cap
Pelvis/pelvic girdle	Ossa coxae and sacrum
Sacrum (14)	
Scapula (6)	Plural scapulae
Skull	The cranium and mandible together
Sternum (5)	Comprises manubrium and body (corpus sterni) can be fused or unfused on adults
Tibia (17)	Plural tibiae, commonly referred to as the shin bone
Ulna (9)	Plural ulnae, one of the two bones of the forearm
Vertebra (11)	Form the vertebral column, commonly referred to as the spine. Three sections cervical – the superior 7 vertebrae, thoracic – the intermediate 12 vertebrae and lumbar – the inferior 5 vertebrae

(*Terminologia Anatomica* 1998; Duday 2009; White et al. 2012; Knüsel 2014)

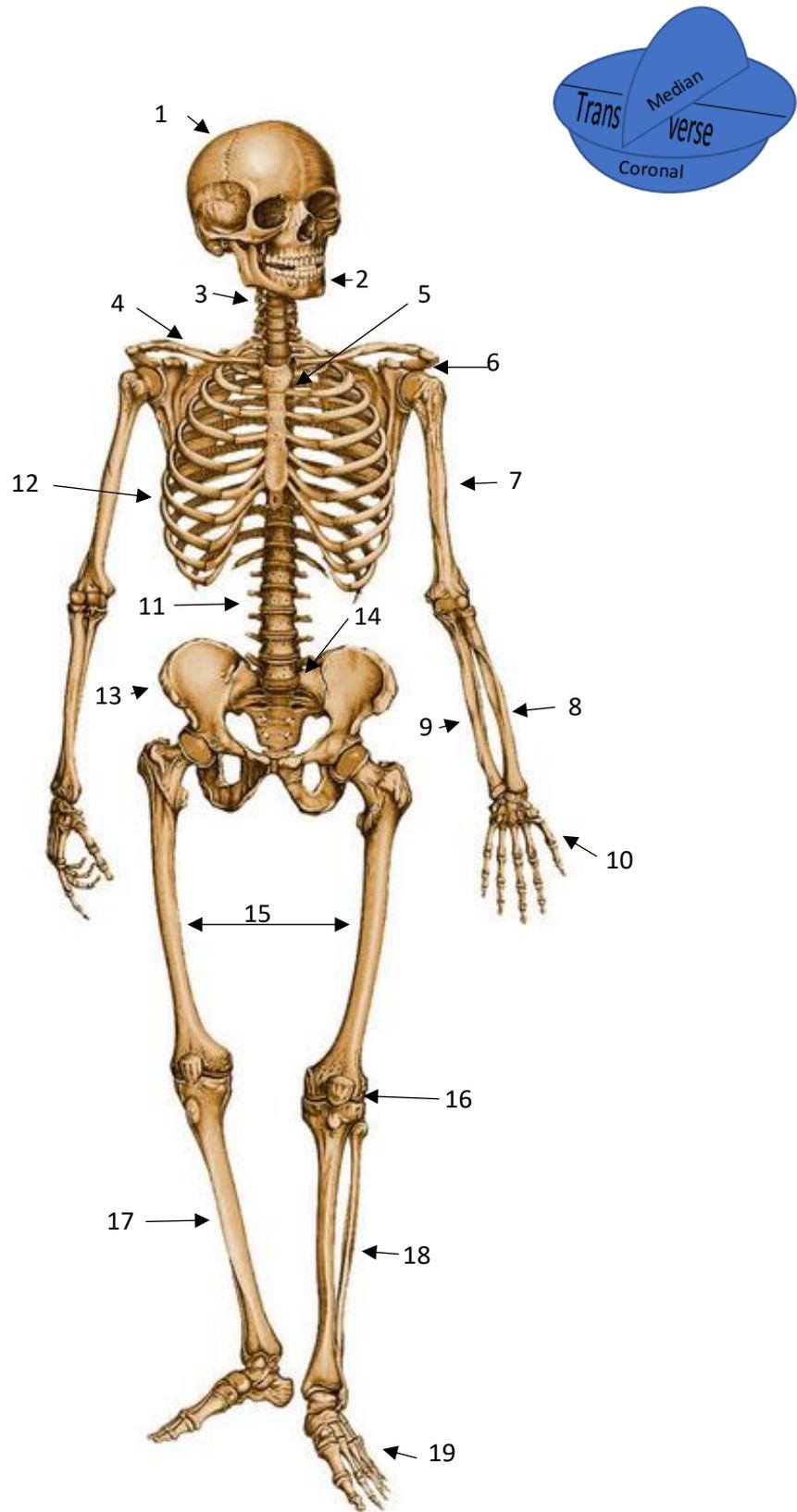


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