

Relative position terms for a person in anatomical position (a person standing, arms at sides, palms forward):

- Above = Superior
Below = Inferior
- Towards the front = Anterior (or ventral)
Towards the back = Posterior (or dorsal)
- Towards the vertical midline = Medial
Away from vertical midline = Lateral
- Closer to the trunk = Proximal
Further from the trunk = Distal
- More towards the surface of the body = Superficial
More deeper into the body = Deep

Fig 1.13

Body planes (also called body sections):

- Sagittal (medial) section = Divides the body into left and right halves
- Frontal section = Divides the body into front and back halves
- Transverse section = Divides the body into upper and lower halves

Fig 1.14

Body cavities

Hollow regions in the body that are filled with organs

- Posterior cavity = The hollow region of the back of the body.

√ The posterior cavity is divided into the cranial cavity (the upper region of the posterior cavity; it contains the brain) and the vertebral cavity (the lower region of the posterior cavity; it contains the spinal cord)

- Anterior cavity = The hollow region of the front of the body.

√ The anterior cavity is divided in two by the diaphragm muscle. The area above the diaphragm is the thoracic cavity (the upper region of the anterior cavity; it contains the heart and lungs) and the area below the diaphragm is the abdominopelvic cavity (the lower region of the anterior cavity; it contains digestive organs, the kidneys, the bladder, and reproductive organs)

- The abdominopelvic cavity is divided into two. The upper region is the abdominal cavity and the lower region is the pelvic cavity.

Fig 1.15

Body region terms:

Head and neck terms:

Cephalic = Head

Occipital = Back of head

Orbital = Eye cavity

Nasal = Nose

Oral = Mouth

Cervical = Neck

Trunk terms:

Mammary = Breast

Pectoral/Thoracic = Chest

Abdominal = Abdomen

Dorsum = The back

Vertebral = The spine

Lumbar = Lower back

Gluteal = Buttocks

Sacral = Between back of hips

Coxal/Pelvic = Hips

Inguinal = Groin

Upper limb terms:

Axillary = Armpit

Brachial = Upper arm

Carpal = Wrist

Digital = Fingers

Lower limb terms:

Femoral = Thigh

Patellar = Knee

Crural = Lower leg

Tarsal = Ankle

Pedal = Foot

Plantar = Sole

Fig 1.12