The Language of Anatomy

Bio 250 Lab

Anatomical Position

The Language of Anatomy

• Special terminology is used to prevent misunderstanding
• Exact terms are used for:
  • Position
  • Direction
  • Regions
  • Structures
Orientation and Directional Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superior (superior or cephalad)</td>
<td>Toward the head-end or upper part of a structure or the body, above</td>
<td>The head is superior to the knee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inferior (caudal)</td>
<td>Away from the head-end or toward the lower part of a structure or the body, below</td>
<td>The tail is inferior to the backbone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anterior (anterior)</td>
<td>Toward or at the front of the body, in front of</td>
<td>The trachea is anterior to the spine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posterior (posterior)</td>
<td>Toward or at the backside of the body, behind</td>
<td>The heart is posterior to the backbone</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medial (medial)</td>
<td>Toward or at the middle of the body, on the inner side of</td>
<td>The heart is medial to the arms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Body Landmarks

- Anterior
Body Landmarks

- Posterior

Body Planes

Body Cavities