

The inferior articular processes of C1 (atlas) are flat or slightly concave circular facets located on the inferior surface of each lateral mass and are orientated more obliquely to the transverse plane than the superior articular facets and face postero-medially. The inferior articular facets articulate with the superior articular facets of C2 (axis) at the **atlanto-axial joints**, thereby permitting rotation of the head and circumduction around the dens of the axis.