

The superior articular facets of C2 (axis) are slightly convex in shape and project supero-laterally from the superior surface of the pedicles and the anterior part of the transverse processes. The superior articular facets are covered with hyaline cartilage and articulate with the inferior articular facets of C1 (atlas) at the lateral **atlanto-axial joints**, which permit forward and backward gliding of the C1 lateral masses during rotation on C2.