**DENT 111: ORAL ANATOMY**

**STUDY GUIDE FOR THE TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT**

**Let’s Begin**

The temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is the joint responsible for moving our jaws. It is the articulation between the cranium and the mandible, hence the other name cranio-mandibular articulation.

The way the mandible moves is very interesting as the TMJ is one of the most complex joints in the body. In this module, you will learn the amazing architecture of the TMJ and how it is interrelated with the other structures of the stomatognathic system

At the end of this module, you are expected to:

1. Describe the anatomy of the temporomandibular joint.
2. Explain the role of the different parts of the TMJ, muscles of mastication, and the accessory ligaments in mandibular movements.
3. Describe the different mandibular positions and movements.

**Read/ Watch**

To help you better understand this complex joint, please read and watch the following learning resources:

1. Chapter 15, Wheeler’s Textbook of Anatomy, Physiology and Occlusion; pp 251-266.
2. Chapter 14 Section II: The Temporomandibular Joint. Woelfel’s Dental Anatomy 398-416.
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBVax9JWS8U>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw9aS1fkkCo>

The last two resources are animations of how the mandible moves.

**Think**

While reading or watching the learning resources and listening to Dr. Fandialan’s lecture, think of the answers to the following:

1. Why is the TMJ classified as a ginglymo-arthrodial joint?
2. Why is the articular disc or meniscus a very important component of the TMJ?
3. Explain this: There is no right and left TMJ.
4. What is Bennet shift?
5. What is Posselt’s Envelope of Motion?

**Dig Deeper**

As you listen to Dr. Fandialan’s lecture on mandibular movements and also as you watch the videos, try to move your mandible also (to the right, to the left, forward and backward) and observe the interplay of the teeth, muscles of mastication and the mandible. Do these movement in front of a mirror to better appreciate the anatomy of the TMJ and the movements of the mandible.