

Summary of Cranial Nerves

Cranial Nerve	Nerve Name	Cranial Exit	Main Functions
CN I	Olfactory	Foramina in cribriform plate of ethmoid bone	Smell
CN II	Optic	Optic canal	Vision
CN III	Oculomotor	Superior orbital fissure	Movement of the eyes and pupils (medial rectus, superior rectus, inferior rectus, and inferior oblique muscles)
CN IV	Trochlear	Superior orbital fissure	Movement of the eyes (superior oblique muscle)
CN V	Trigeminal	<i>Ophthalmic branch:</i> superior orbital fissure <i>Maxillary branch:</i> foramen rotundum <i>Mandibular branch:</i> foramen ovale	Sensation of the face, sinuses, and teeth. Movement of the jaw, muscles of mastication (chewing)
CN VI	Abducens	Superior orbital fissure	Movement of the eyes laterally (lateral rectus muscle)
CN VII	Facial	Internal acoustic meatus; stylomastoid foramen	Taste (anterior 2/3 of the tongue), muscles of facial expression, innervation of most salivary glands.
CN VIII	Vestibulocochlear	Internal acoustic meatus	Hearing, balance and orientation (vestibular sensation)
CN IX	Glossopharyngeal	Jugular foramen	Innervation to the stylopharyngeus muscle; taste (posterior 1/3 of tongue); sensation of middle and external ear; innervation of the parotid gland
CN X	Vagus	Jugular foramen	Taste (superior pharynx); innervation to the muscles of the pharynx (swallowing) and larynx (speaking); autonomic innervation to the thorax and abdomen
CN XI	Spinal Accessory	Jugular foramen (branch) Foramen magnum (branch)	Movement of neck and shoulders (sternocleidomastoid and trapezius)
CN XII	Hypoglossal	Hypoglossal canal	Movement of the tongue