

Muscles of Facial Expression: Study Guide

A concise map for connecting facial movement tasks, facial-nerve branch territories, and pattern-based clinical reasoning.

30-second framework

1	Observe the task and identify the upper, mid, or lower facial movement.
2	Map the movement to a broad CN VII branch territory.
3	Compare the full pattern and use clinical context before localizing.

Active recall

A learner raises both eyebrows but has lower-face asymmetry. What is the study takeaway?

Answer: Use the classic central-versus-peripheral facial-control framework, then add timing, associated signs, history, and the complete examination.

What does the branch map help you remember?

Answer: It links a facial movement task with broad CN VII territories and muscle groups; it does not replace detailed anatomy or clinical localization.

Sources and study boundary

Blumenfeld H. *Neuroanatomy Through Clinical Cases*. 3rd ed. Sinauer Associates; 2021.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Facial Paralysis Information Page. Accessed October 2026.

Educational resource for learners and clinicians. It does not replace course instruction, medical advice, clinical judgment, supervision, or local procedures.