

Both statements are true

The **height of contour** (*crest of curvature*) is the greatest amount of a curve, or greatest convexity or bulge, farthest from the root axis line. The height of contour on the facial or lingual surfaces of the crown is where this greatest bulge would be touched by a tangent line drawn parallel to the root axis line.

The location of the lingual **height** of contour differs, depending on whether the tooth is anterior or posterior. The lingual height of contour on **anterior teeth** is on the cingulum, which is in the cervical third. The lingual height of contour on **posterior teeth** is more likely to be located in the middle third.

Summary of the location of facial and lingual heights of contour (*greatest bulge*) of crown (*best seen from proximal view*)

	Facial (Height of Contour)	Lingual (Height of Contour)
Anterior teeth (incisors and canines)	Cervical third	Cervical third (on cingulum)
Posterior teeth (premolars and molars)	Cervical third	At or near the middle third

The **functions** of the height of contour are:

- It **forms the contact area** on the mesial and distal surfaces
- It protects the gingiva surrounding the tooth

Note: There is clinical evidence that smooth and properly contoured (*not too convex or too great a contour*) crown surfaces promote tooth cleansing and gingival health. In other words, when fabricating a crown for a patient, make sure the height of contour is taken into consideration.