## Ball Joints

The ball joint is the suspension pivot closest to the wheels. It is mounted to the control arm and steering knuckle, or spindle. The ball joint stud swings in its socket to compensate for up-and-down suspension movement and rotates in its socket for steering. The ball joint works in the steering and suspension systems simultaneously. Ball joints can be load-carrying or non-load carrying. The load-carrying ball joint supports the vehicle's weight and generally wears quicker. The load carrier is generally the joint closest to the spring. The follower, or non-load ball joint does not support vehicle weight and doesn't get the same amount of stress. Most MacPherson strut suspensions have only one ball joint per side, and that is a non-load ball joint.