

Vocabulary *Dentist*



Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about dentist and teeth.

Dentist – the person in a white coat who inspects your mouth with a variety of instruments.



correct their position. They are very popular with 14-year-old American girls.

Patient – the person who goes to visit the dentist, and who is easily identified by the look of fear, panic or apprehension on their face.

The dentist's – the place where you go to visit the dentist.

The waiting room – this is the room where you wait for your dental appointment. There are often old copies of Vogue or Cosmopolitan so you read about face cream and **take your mind off things**.



A dental check-up – this is an examination the dentist carries out to see the state of your teeth. The dentist does this by **prodding** you with a metal instrument that has a **sharp point** at the end.

Tooth (plural: teeth) – this is the hard object in your mouth that is commonly used for biting. Types of teeth include the following:



Incisors – the teeth right at the front of your mouth for cutting food.

Canine teeth – the long, pointed teeth that vampires use to suck blood.

Molars – the teeth at the back of your mouth for **grinding food**.

Wisdom teeth – the teeth right at the back of your mouth that appear at the age of about 20.

Toothpaste – this is the substance that you put on your toothbrush in order to clean your teeth.



The tooth fairy – an imaginary person who leaves children money in exchange for teeth that have fallen out.

Apple – a piece of fruit that is supposedly good for your teeth. British children are taught that "an apple a day, **keeps the dentist away**".

Bad breath – this is a bad smell produced in the mouth. According to a recent survey, 46% of employees say that this is the thing they most hate about their **co-workers**.

False teeth – this is a set of plastic teeth. Old people keep them in glasses beside their beds.

Mouth wash – this is a liquid that you use to give you fresh, minty breath.

A cavity (also known as "tooth decay") – this is a bad tooth. You get cavities after years of eating chocolate and sweets, and going to bed without brushing your teeth.

Braces – (also known as "dental braces" and "orthodontic braces") – this is a metal and plastic object that is fixed to the teeth in order to

Root canal treatment – this is a dental operation to eliminate bacteria from the centre of your tooth. It involves a lot of pain, and is one of the main reasons why people don't like going to see the dentist.



Drilling – this is the action of making a hole in a tooth with an electrical instrument known as a drill. The purpose of this is **twofold**: a) to kill the bacteria in the tooth; b) to cause you a lot of pain so you remember to take better care of your teeth in future.

A filling – this is the final process of eliminating a cavity. Once the dentist has made the hole in your tooth, it's time to fill it with a special substance. Now you have a filling and your teeth are fine again... until your next visit to the dentist.

Gums – this word refers to the pink and white tissue around your teeth. The technical term for gums is "gingivae", which is useful to know.

Plaque – this is the invisible mass of **harmful germs** that live in your mouth. Plaque **sticks to** the teeth and can cause gum disease, or lead to the **build up** of tartar (see next entry).

Tartar – this is basically plaque that has formed on your teeth. It is often yellow in colour. Curiously, you will never see any tartar on smiling models, film stars or successful business people.

A cleaning session – this is when the dentist cleans your teeth and **gets rid of** tartar. It hurts a bit, but afterwards you'll have a lovely bright, white smile, and your teeth will feel good. As we say in English, "**no pain, no gain**".

Tooth pick – this is the little stick used to take food out from between your teeth. Be responsible and always return your toothpick to the

toothpick jar after using it. Other people may want to use it, you know.

A painkiller – this is something the dentist gives you to reduce the pain. It can consist of gas or an anaesthetic (usually in the form of an injection). Dentists prefer to use gas when dealing with children as it's the only way to stop them crying.

Tooth extraction – this consists of **pulling out** a tooth. In the past, dentists used **crude methods** involving **hammers** or bits of **string**. These days there are sophisticated **tools** for performing the job much more efficiently.

GLOSSARY

to take your mind off things *exp*
to do something so you stop worrying about another thing
to grind food *exp*
to reduce food to a paste by using your teeth
wisdom *n*
intelligence
a fairy *n*
a fantasy, imaginary person with wings
to keep the dentist away *exp*
to make sure your teeth are healthy so you don't have to visit the dentist
co-worker *n*
a person who works with you
to prod *vb*
to touch quickly with a finger or instrument
a sharp point *n*
if an object has a "sharp point", the end is very thin and hard, and can cut things
a thread *n*
a very thin piece of material
a paper clip *n*
a metal object used for holding papers together
a fishing line *n*
a thin piece of string/plastic with a hook on

the end that is used for catching fish
twofold *adj*
with two objectives/parts
harmful germs *n*
bacteria that can damage a part of your body
to stick to *phr vb*
to be attached to
a build up *n*
an increase/an accumulation
to get rid of something *exp*
to eliminate something
no pain, no gain *exp*
in order to achieve something positive, you must suffer
to pull out *phr vb*
to extract; to take out
a crude method *n*
a method that is not sophisticated
a hammer *n*
a tool that consists of a thin piece of wood with a piece of metal at the end. It is often used for hitting nails into walls
string *n*
a piece of cord used for tying things
a tool *n*
an object used for doing a manual job

