



Dental Dictionary Answer Key

Word Bank

Canines	Enamel	Mastication	Pharynx	Tartar
Cavity	Gingivitis	Mucous membranes	Plaque	Tonsils
Cementum	Halitosis	Palate	Pulp	Uvula
Dentin	Incisors	Periodontitis	Salivary glands	Wisdom teeth

1. To the sides of the incisors are the long, sharp canines, two on the bottom and two on the top. The upper ones are sometimes called eyeteeth or cuspids.
2. The uvula is the dangling fleshy object at the back of the mouth.
3. The membrane-covered roof of the mouth is called the palate.
4. A hard yellow substance surrounding the pulp, dentin makes up most of the tooth.
5. Tartar is plaque in a hardened form that is more damaging and difficult to remove.
6. Bad breath, or halitosis, is caused by odor-producing bacteria that grow in the mouth.
7. Wisdom teeth get their name because, as the last teeth to erupt, they break through when a person is becoming an adult and is supposedly wiser.
8. Under the gum line, a bony layer of cementum covers the outside of the root and holds the tooth in place within the jawbone.
9. The pulp is the soft, innermost portion of the tooth. It's made of connective tissue, nerves, and blood vessels, which nourish the tooth.
10. Tonsils are located on either side of the uvula and look like twin pillars holding up the opening to the pharynx.



11. Teeth are needed for mastication (a fancy way of saying chewing), the process by which we tear, cut, and grind food in preparation for swallowing.
12. Gingivitis, the first stage of gum disease, is usually caused by the accumulation of tartar.
13. When gingivitis isn't treated, it can lead to periodontitis, in which the gums loosen around the teeth and pockets of bacteria and pus form, sometimes damaging the supporting bone and causing tooth loss.
14. The hard palate divides the mouth from the nose above. The soft palate forms a curtain between the mouth and the throat (or pharynx) to the rear.
15. When bacteria and food particles settle on teeth, the bacteria digest the carbohydrates (sugars) in the food and produce acid, which dissolves the tooth's enamel and causes a cavity.
16. Plaque forms when bacteria and food particles are allowed to settle on the teeth.
17. Enamel, the hardest tissue in the body, is the outermost layer covering the tooth.
18. The mouth is lined with mucous membranes, which produce mucus to keep it moist.
19. Salivary glands secrete saliva, which moistens food and contains digestive enzymes that help break down food.
20. Incisors are the squarish, sharp-edged teeth at the front and middle of the mouth. There are four on the bottom and four on the top.