



*Dr. Blosa Science*

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+256 778 633682 0753 143413

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**P4 term 2**

**THEME: Human body**

**Topic 3/4: The Teeth**



**A tooth** is a hard bone like structure in the mouth of vertebrates used for breaking down food into small particles.

## Functions of teeth

- (i) Break food in the mouth into small particles
- (ii) Contribute to the shape of the face and attraction of opposite sex to enable reproduction and continuation of life
- (iii) Teeth help in talking and pronunciation of words.

## Exercise 1

- (a) Name four types of teeth
- (b) Give one function of teeth.

## Sets of teeth

A person has two sets of teeth. The first set is the **milk teeth** also called the deciduous teeth. The set consists of **incisors, canines** and **premolars** only. The total number of milk teeth is 20.

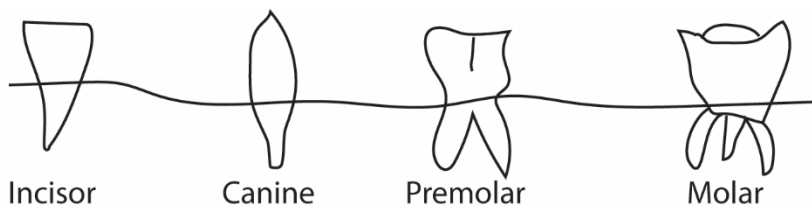
The second set is composed of 32 teeth. This set is called the permanent teeth and it replaces the milk teeth. The permanent set of teeth consists of four types of teeth.

## Types of teeth

There are four different types of teeth.

1. **Incisors** for nipping, cutting and biting.
2. **Canines** for biting, cutting and tearing.
3. **Premolars** for crushing, chewing and grinding.
4. **Molar** for crushing, chewing and grinding

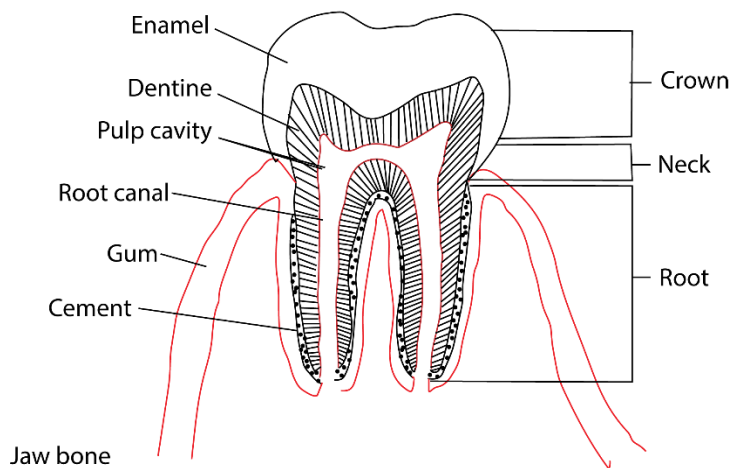
## Drawing of teeth



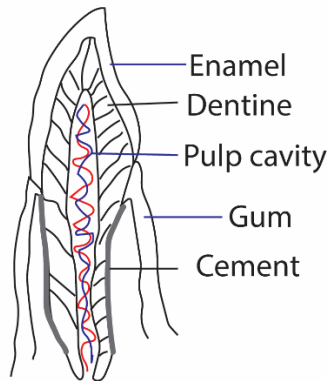
## Characteristics of teeth and their functions

Type of tooth	Features	Functions of the tooth	Number in adult
Incisor	Has one root It is chisel-shaped	Biting and cutting	8
Canine	Has one root It is sharp and pointed	For tearing	4
Premolar	It has two roots Has uneven top	Crushing food Grinding food Chewing food	8
Molar	Has three roots Has uneven top	Crushing food Grinding food Chewing food	12

Cross section of a molar tooth



Crosssection of canine tooth



Teeth are made of a very hard substance called **dentine**, which in turn is covered by even a harder substance called **enamel** made of calcium and phosphate salts.

The part of teeth called **pulp cavity** carries blood vessels to provide nutrients and oxygen to the teeth. The pulp cavity also carries nerves.

### Teeth and mouth diseases

- (i) Bad breath and dental caries
- (ii) Mouth ulcers
- (iii) Bleeding gum
- (iv) Bad breath dental caries
- (v) dental crack
- (vi) broken teeth

### Exercise 2

- (a) Name any mouth diseases
- (b) State two ways of caring for the mouth.

### Care of teeth

- (a) Teeth should be brushed/cleaned after every meal to prevent **tooth decay**. Tooth decay is caused by **food remains** that remain in the mouth in between the teeth and gum after feeding.
- (b) Avoid eating sugary foods such as sweet and biscuits or drinking sugary juice.

- (c) Visit a dentist in case of any problem
- (d) Eat food that contain calcium such as milk and eggs
- (e) Regular dental check up

### Common Teeth Diseases and Disorders with Signs & Symptoms

Disease/Disorder	Signs & Symptoms
<b>Tooth decay (cavities)</b>	Toothache, sensitivity to hot/cold, visible holes or dark spots on teeth, bad breath.
<b>Gingivitis (early gum disease)</b>	Red, swollen gums, bleeding when brushing, persistent bad breath.
<b>Periodontitis (advanced gum disease)</b>	Loose teeth, receding gums, pus between teeth and gums, difficulty chewing.
<b>Dental abscess</b>	Severe toothache, swelling of gums or face, fever, pus discharge, bad taste in mouth.
<b>Tooth sensitivity</b>	Sharp pain when eating hot, cold, sweet, or acidic foods.
<b>Cracked or broken tooth</b>	Pain when chewing, visible cracks, sensitivity to temperature changes.
<b>Stained/discolored teeth</b>	Yellow, brown, or black patches on teeth, often due to food, tobacco, or poor hygiene.
<b>Impacted teeth (often wisdom teeth)</b>	Pain at the back of the mouth, swelling, difficulty opening mouth, crowding of teeth.
<b>Oral thrush (fungal infection)</b>	White patches on tongue/cheeks, soreness, difficulty swallowing.
<b>Bruxism (teeth grinding)</b>	Worn-down teeth, jaw pain, headaches, tooth fractures.

### Key Warning Signs to Watch For

- Persistent **toothache or sensitivity**.
- **Bleeding gums** when brushing or flossing.
- **Swelling** in gums, jaw, or face.
- **Loose teeth** or changes in bite.
- **Bad breath** that doesn't go away.
- **Visible damage** like cracks, holes, or discoloration.

## Prevention Tips

- (i) Brush teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste.
- (ii) Floss regularly to remove food particles.
- (iii) Reduce sugary foods and drinks.
- (iv) Visit the dentist at least twice a year.

## Revision questions

1. Name the type of teeth which develops last in human beings

**Third molar or wisdom teeth**

2. In the space provided below, draw a simple diagram of a molar tooth.



3. In which **one** way does toothpaste promote oral health?

**Strength tooth by providing calcium and fluoride**

**Prevent dental caries by ensuring effective cleaning of teeth by removing plaque/bacteria from the teeth**

4. Which element of primary Health care helps to prevent tooth decay?

*Personal hygiene or dental care*

5. The diagram below shows a section through a human tooth.

**Study and use it to answer the questions that follow**

6. Apart from brushing, how else can dental carries be prevented?

By rising mouth after eating

By going for regular medical check up

By avoiding sugary food

7. State any one habit which helps to promote oral health.

Brushing teeth;

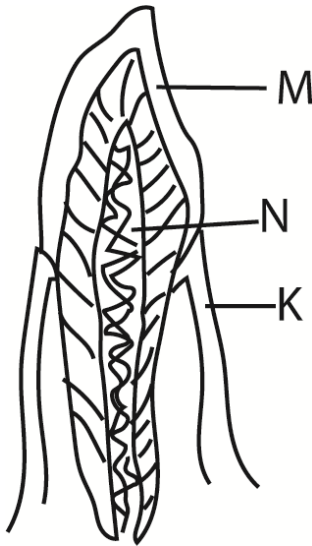


cleaning the tongue



8. Why should you chew food before swallowing it?

**To break food into small particles that increases surface area for enzyme activity and to ease swallowing.**



(a) Name the parts Marked M and K

- (i) M – enamel
- (ii) K - gum

(b) Which mineral salt helps to form part M?

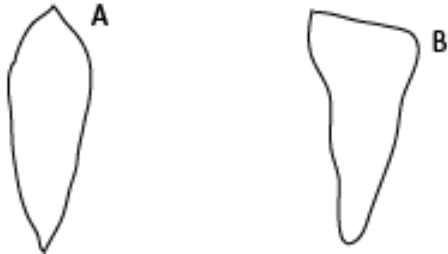
Calcium

(c) Give the function of the part labeled N

Supply the tooth with oxygen and nutrients

9. . The following diagram shows two types of teeth in human beings

*Use it to answer question that follow.*



- (a) Name the type of tooth marked:

(i) A: **Canine**

(ii) B: **incisor**

- (b) Give the use of each of the teeth in the diagram above.

(i) **A for tearing food**

(ii) **B for cutting food**

10. (a) State two functions of mammalian teeth?

**Incisors cut food**

**Canine tear food.**

**Molar grind food.**

**Help in speech**

- (b) An elderly man has lost all his molar teeth. What feeding problems would be experience?

**He would not be able to grind food easily**

**He would not be able to swallow easily**

**He would not talk properly**

**Thank You**

**Dr. Bbosa Science**