

# Terms in Dental Practice



# Objectives

**After studying this chapter, you will be able to:**

- **Name the parts of the body treated in dentistry**
- **Describe the function of each body part treated in dentistry**
- **Define combining forms used in building words that relate to dental practice**
- **Identify the meaning of related abbreviations**
- **Name the common diagnostic, pathological, and treatment terms related to dental practice**
- **Recognize common pharmacological agents used in dental practice**

# Terms in Dental Practice



## Dentistry

•The profession that studies, diagnoses, and treats the teeth, gums and any other part of the oral cavity and facial structure that interacts with the teeth and gums.

### Includes:

- prevention
- diagnosis
- treatment
- surgery
  - reconstructive
  - cosmetic

### The Dental Team

Dentist

Dental hygienists

Dental technicians or assistants

# Terms in Dental Practice

## Oral Cavity

**Part of the digestive system**

**The teeth and gums help with:**

- **chewing food**
- **speech**
- **general appearance**

## Gums

- **also called *gingivae***
- **dense fibrous tissue that forms a protective covering around the sockets of the teeth**

# Terms in Dental Practice

## Teeth



- **Primary teeth (deciduous teeth) erupt at about 6 months old**



- **Secondary teeth (permanent teeth) begin to erupt at age 6**



- **Deciduous teeth equals 20 and are usually in place by age 4 years**



- **By the mid-twenties, usually all 32 permanent teeth have developed**

**NOTE: Permanent teeth are not replaced by the body if they are lost.**

# Terms in Dental Practice

## Parts of a Tooth

### Crown

- part projecting above the jaw line
- consists of an outer layer (**enamel**) and inner layer (**dentin**)

### Root

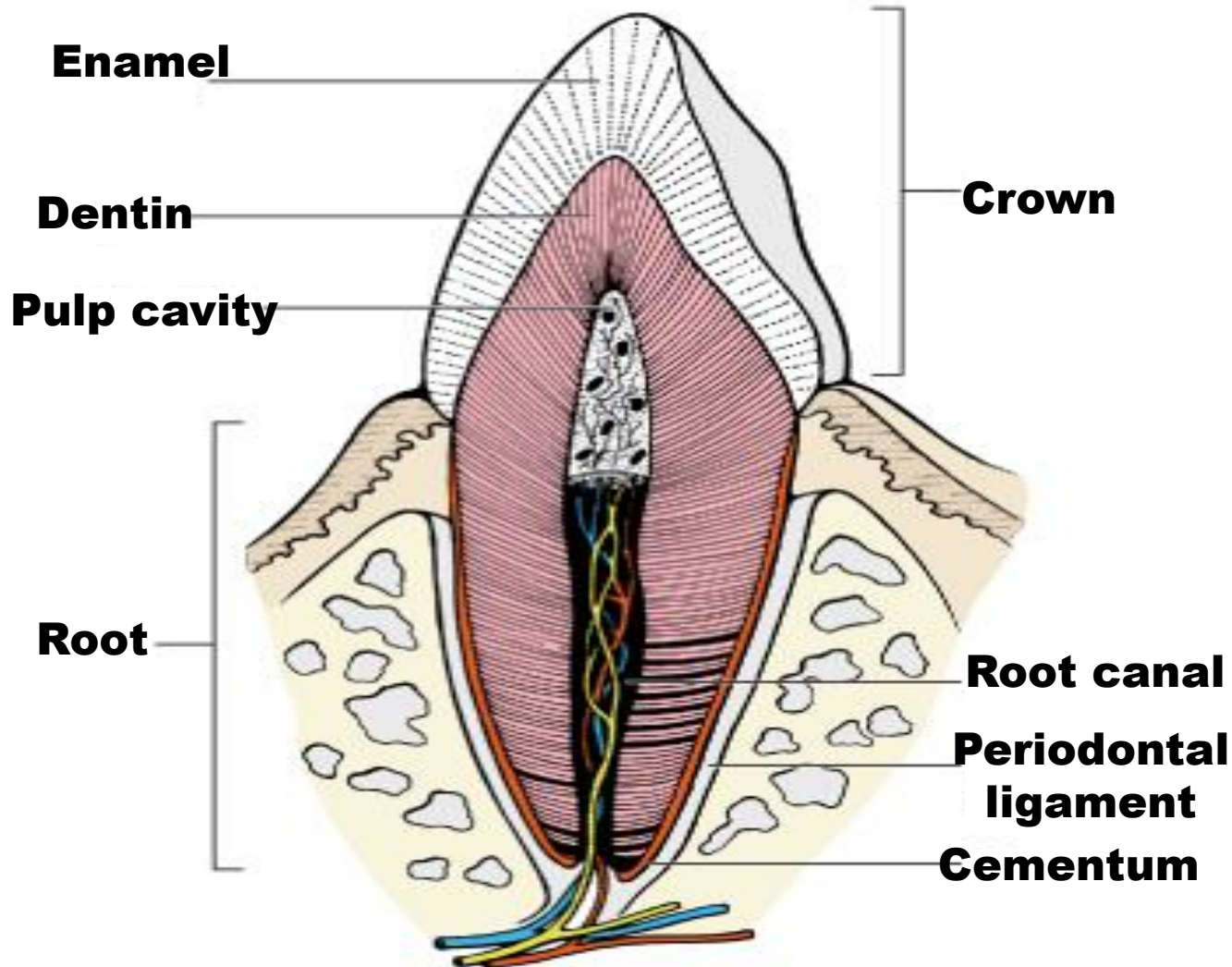
- part below the jaw line
- held in place by **cementum**
- root canals carry the blood vessels and nerves from the bottom of the jaw into the **pulp cavity**

### Pulp Cavity

- central portion of the tooth
- contains connective tissue, blood vessels, and nerves

# Terms in Dental Practice

## Structure of a Tooth



# Terms in Dental Practice

## Types of Primary Teeth

### • *Incisors*

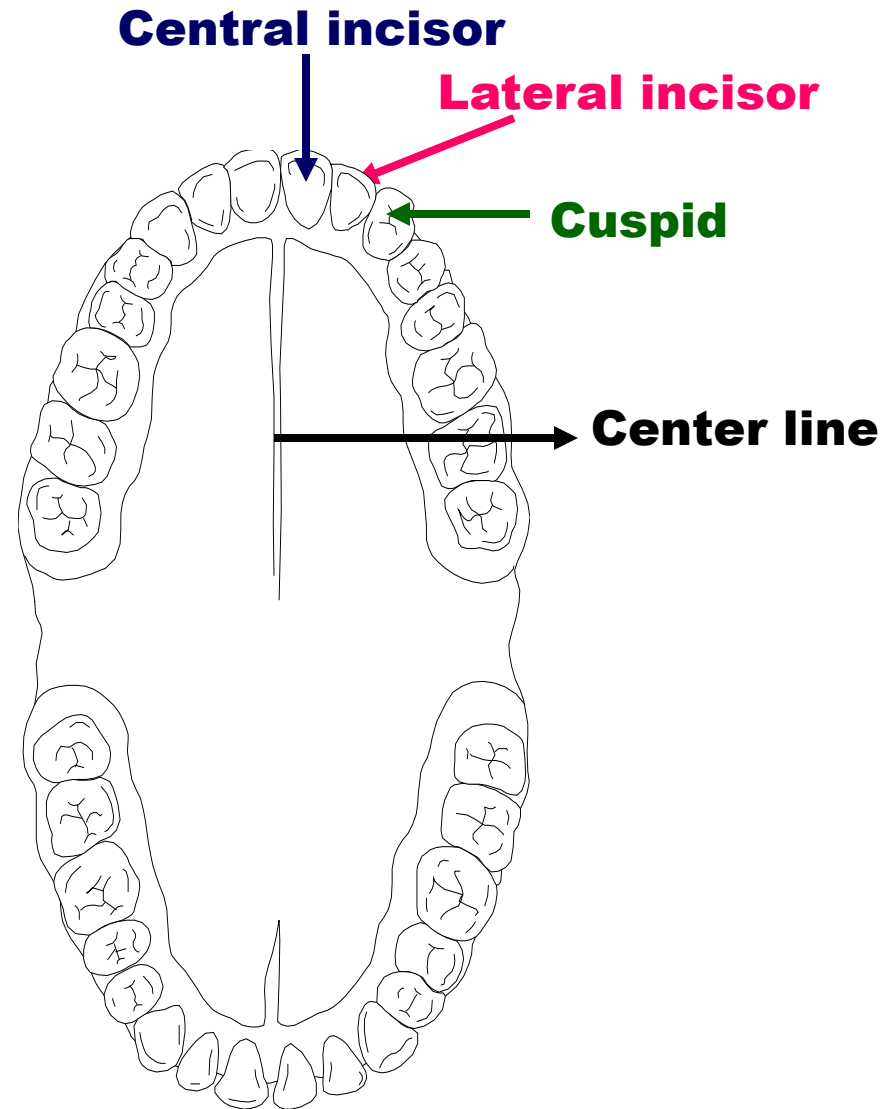
-cutting teeth located on either side of the center line of the jaw

-**central incisors** are on either side of the center line

-**lateral incisors** are located next to the cuspids

### • *Cuspids*

-also known as **canines** or **eyeteeth**





# Terms in Dental Practice

## Types of Primary Teeth (cont'd)

- *Molars*

- the first molar sits next to the cuspid
- the second molar is located at the back of the child's jaw

## Types of Secondary Teeth

- **Permanent teeth include:**

- incisors
- cuspids
- molars
- bicuspids**

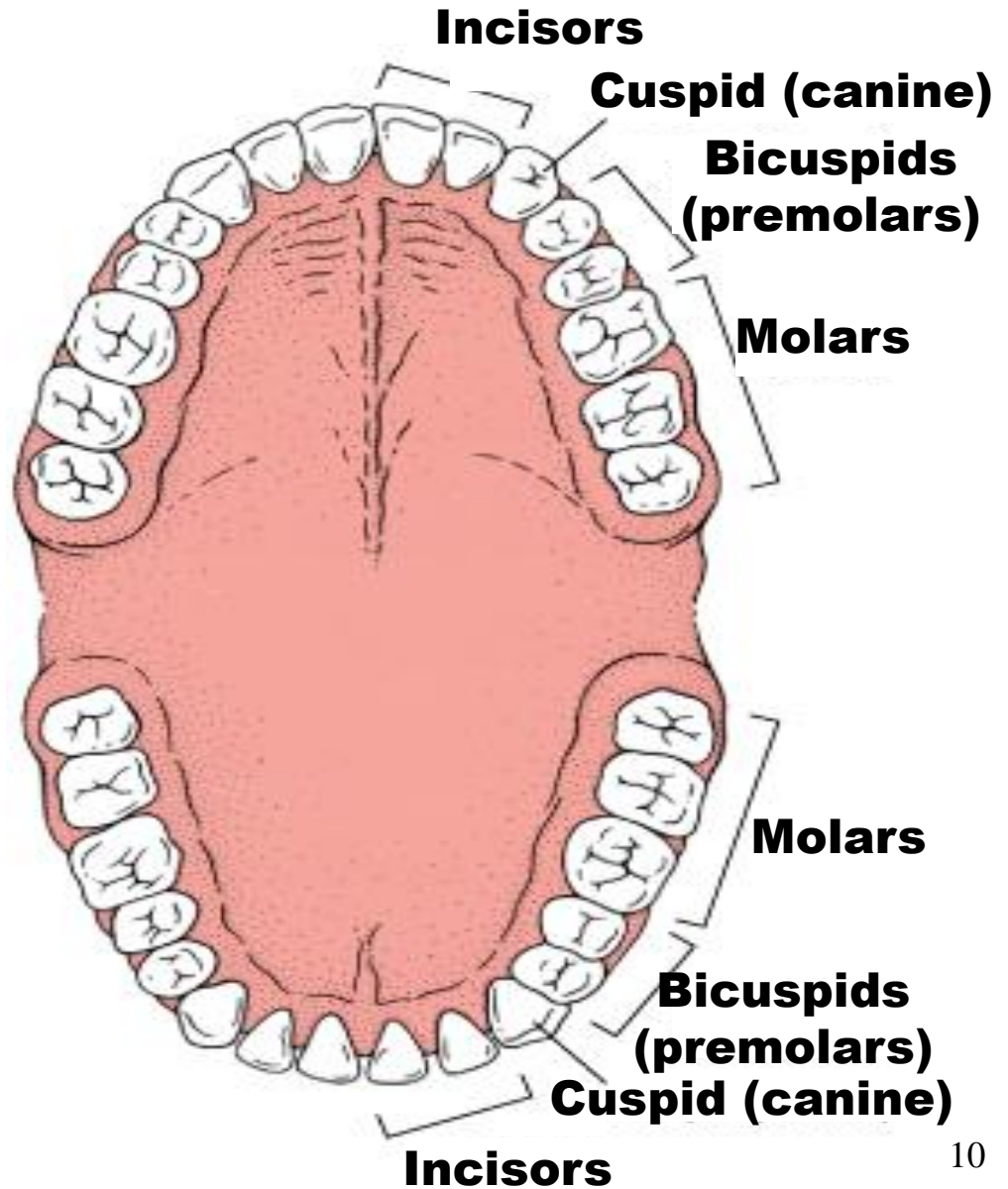
- *Bicuspids*

- located next to each cuspid
- present only as permanent teeth

**Note: There are three molars present with permanent teeth. The third molar is often called the **wisdom tooth**.**

# Terms in Dental Practice

## Permanent Teeth



# Terms in Dental Practice

## Outer Surfaces of Teeth

### Labial Surface

-parts of the teeth that meet when the mouth is closed

### Buccal Surface

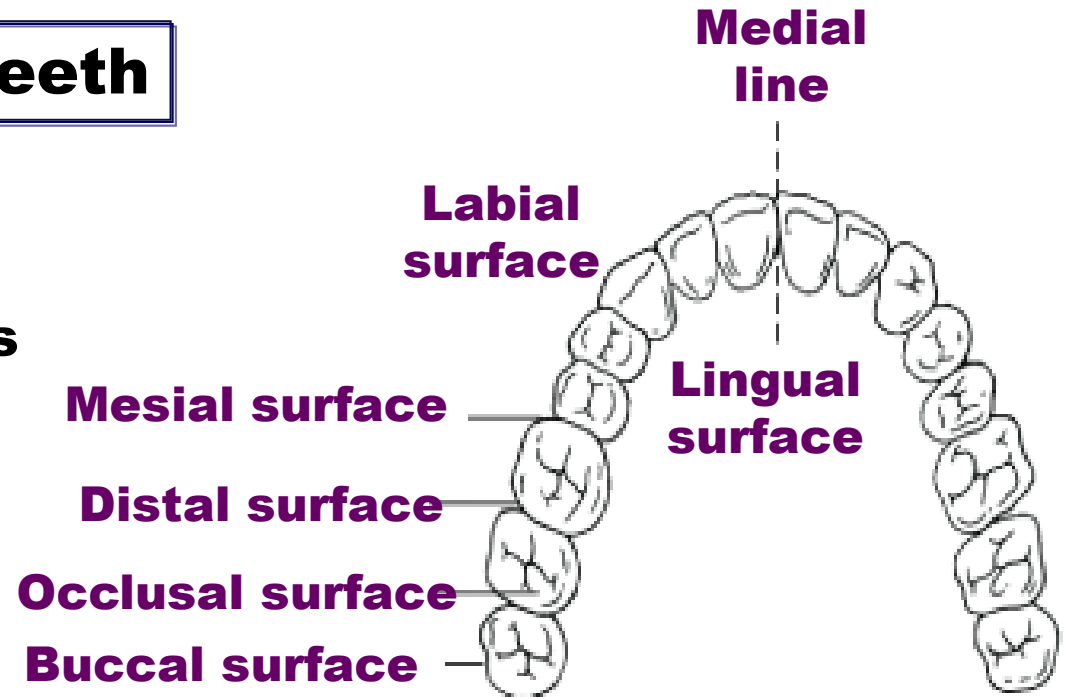
-sides of teeth nearest the cheek

### Lingual Surface

-inside surface nearest the tongue

### Mesial Surface

-short side of the tooth nearest the median of the jaw line



### Distal Surface

-short side of tooth farthest from the median of the jaw line

# Combining Forms and Abbreviations

**Combining Form**

**Meaning**

**dent(o), denti** → **tooth**

**gingiv(o)** → **gum**

**odont(o)** → **tooth**

# Combining Forms and Abbreviations

## Abbreviation

## Meaning

**DDS** \_\_\_\_\_ **doctor of dental surgery**

**def** \_\_\_\_\_ **decayed, extracted, or filled  
(primary teeth)**

**DEF** \_\_\_\_\_ **decayed, extracted, or filled  
(permanent teeth)**

**dmf** \_\_\_\_\_ **decayed, missing, or filled (primary  
teeth)**

**DMF** \_\_\_\_\_ **decayed, missing, or filled  
(permanent teeth)**

**RDH** \_\_\_\_\_ **registered dental hygienist**

**TMJ** \_\_\_\_\_ **temporomandibular joint**

# Diagnostic, Pathological, and Treatment Terms

## Prevention of Tooth Decay

Most dental work begins with preventing tooth decay by insisting on:

- cleaning of teeth
- cleaning of gums
- fluoride treatment for some

Regular cleaning of teeth and gums removes **plaque** which is microorganisms that grow on the crowns and along the roots of teeth causing decay of teeth and damage to the gums.



# Diagnostic, Pathological, and Treatment Terms

## Tooth Decay

- can be detected early using dental x-rays
- causes toothaches (**odontalgia**)
- may require a **filling** if decay has not reached the central part of the tooth

## Fillings

- dental restoration
- drilling is done to remove the decayed area
- **amalgam** is placed into the space



# Diagnostic, Pathological, and Treatment Terms

If decay is deeper within the tooth, an **abscess** may result.

**Endodontists**

-specialize in root canal work

**Periodontists**

-specialize in treating gum disease

**Dental Specialists**

**Orthodontists**

-specialize in the correction and prevention of irregularities in the placement and appearance of teeth



# Diagnostic, Pathological, and Treatment Terms

## Treatments

- **Dentures**

- replacement teeth
- partials** replace one or more tooth
- partials attached to other teeth are called **bridges**
- full dentures** replace all teeth



- **Braces**

- malocclusions can be corrected with braces or surgery

# Diagnostic, Pathological, and Treatment Terms

## Other Treatments

- **Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction**
- **Cosmetic Surgery**
- **Bleaching of teeth**



# Pharmacological Terms

**Local anesthetics are used during certain treatments to numb the area.**

## **Commonly Used Anesthetics**

- **Novocaine**

- is injected near the site to be treated

- **Nitrous oxide**

- gas inhaled by the patient

- also called laughing gas

**Dentists may prescribe antibiotics and pain killers after a procedure but they have limitations to the amount and strength of medication they can prescribe.**

# Apply Your Knowledge

**Brian, age 4 is requesting a snack. His mother can prepare food for a child having:**

- A. 20 deciduous teeth**
- B. 15 deciduous teeth**
- C. 30 secondary teeth**

**Answer: A. 20 deciduous teeth**

# Apply Your Knowledge

**Karen has fallen and “chipped” the outer coating of her tooth. Which of the following structures has she damaged?**

**A. dentin**

**B. enamel**

**C. pulp**

**Answer: B. enamel**

# Apply Your Knowledge

Identify the labeled teeth.

