

College of Dentistry Medical Terminology

1st class

6th lecture

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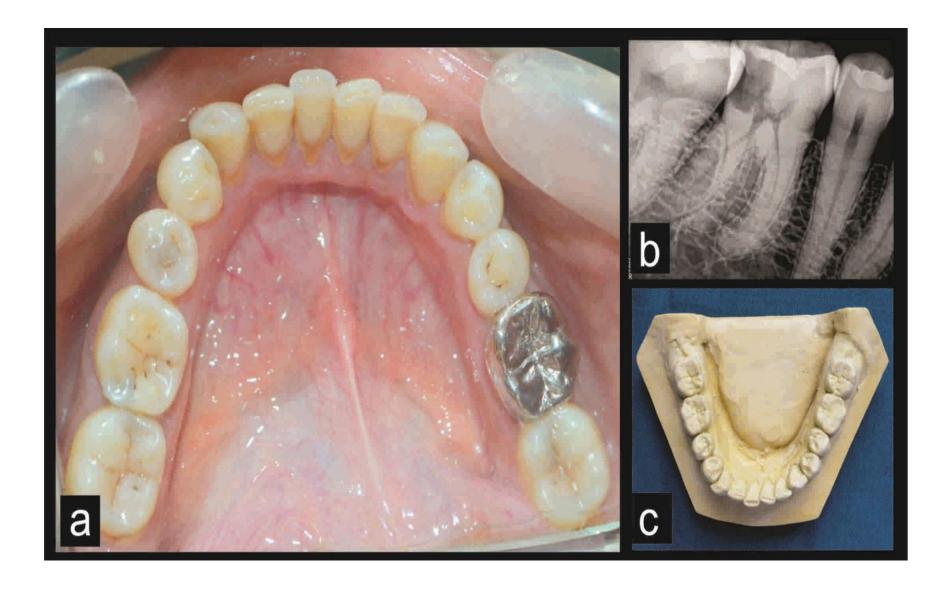
Dental roots & combining form

A word may have one or more root sections. When a root section is combined or connected with other word elements, it may take on a combining vowel and become a combining form. The most common combining vowel is o. For example, the word temporal relates to the temporal bone in the skull, and the word *mandible* is the lower jaw bone. Independently, these are two separate words, but they can be combined to form the word temporomandibular, as in temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Note that the combining vowel o is inserted in place of the al in temporal.

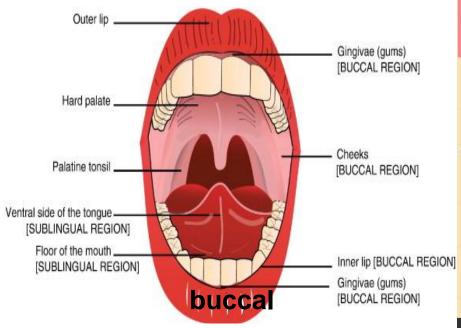


As another example, two roots are combined to designate specific areas of teeth. In referring to the back chewing surface of a tooth, the root term for back or distant is *distal* and the term occlusal refers to chewing or occluding area. When combining these two roots with the combining vowel o, we have distocclusal **surface**, the back chewing surface.

Other examples of terms with two roots are thermometer, cementoenamel junction, and radiograph.



buccal bucc-/o-(**BUCK**-ahl) cheek cheil-/o-(key-**LOH**) Cheilo lip (kor-**OH**-nal) coron-/ocoronal crown (dent) dent-/otooth Dent enamel (ee-NAM-el) ename-/oenamel tissue



Anatomy of Lips

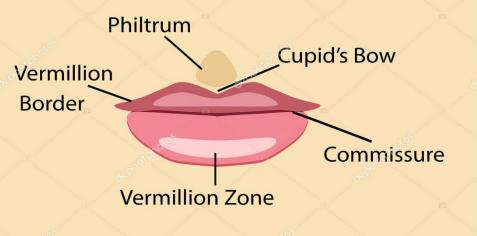
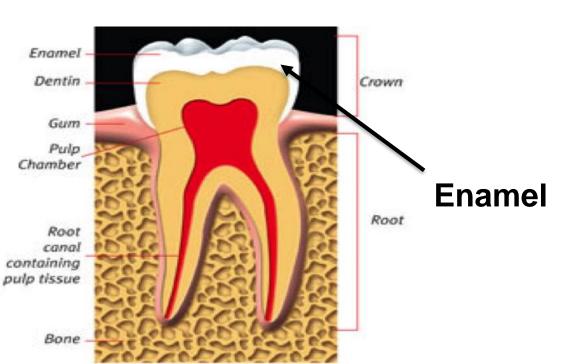
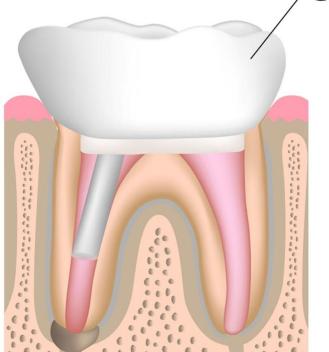


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Gingiva (JIN-jih-vah) gingiv-/ogum tissue (**GLOSS**-ah) gloss-/oglossa tongue gnatho (nah-**TH**-oh) gnath-/o- jaw, cheek incisor (in-**SIGH**-zore) incis-/oincisor tooth



labi-/olabia (**LAY**-bee-ah) lip area (LING-wa) lingua lingu-/otongue mandible (MAN-dih-bull) mandibu-/alower jaw maxilla (MACK-sih-lah) maxilla-/oupper jaw mesi-/omesial (**ME**-zee-al) middle, midplane

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mucosa (myou-KOH-sah) muc-/o- tissue
lining an orifice
occlude (oh-KLUDE) occlus-/o- occluding,
jaw close
odont (oh-DONT) odont-/o-
                                 tooth
Orthos (OR-thohs) orth-/o- straight, proper
order
stoma (STOW-mah) stoma-
                                 mouth
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Or/o mouth





