



Dental Anatomy: 101

Learn more about your teeth!

What Makes a Tooth?

Check out the definitions of the anatomical terms depicted in the diagram to the right.

Enamel - Dental enamel is the hard thin translucent layer that serves as protection for the dentin of a tooth. It is made up of calcium salts. It is the hardest substance in the body.

Dentin - Dentin is the hard, dense, calcareous (made up of calcium carbonate) material that makes up the majority of the tooth underneath the enamel. It is harder and denser than bone. It is one of four components that make up the tooth. It is the second layer of the tooth.

Anatomical Crown - The natural, top part of a tooth, which is covered in enamel and is the part that you can see extending above the gum line.

Pulp Chamber – The area within the natural crown of the tooth where the tooth pulp resides.

Gingiva – also known as gums – the soft tissues that cover part of the tooth and bone. Gingiva helps protect the teeth from any infection or damage from food and everyday interactions with the outer world.

Neck - The area of the tooth where the crown joins the root.

Root Canal – Not to be confused with Root Canal Treatment, the root canal is a space inside your tooth root that is filled with nerves, blood vessels, and soft tissue.

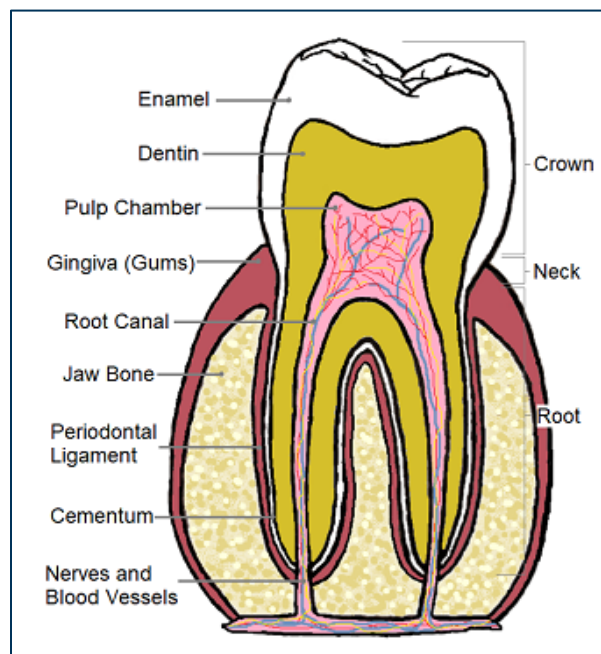
Jawbone (Alveolar Bone) - The part of the jaw that surrounds the roots of the teeth and which is connected to the tooth by the periodontal ligament.

Cementum - A thin layer of a bone like substance that covers the root, and sometimes other parts of a tooth. This substance is yellow and not as hard as enamel or dentin.

Periodontal Ligament - A system of collagenous connective tissue fibers that connect the root of a tooth to its bony socket.

Tooth Charts

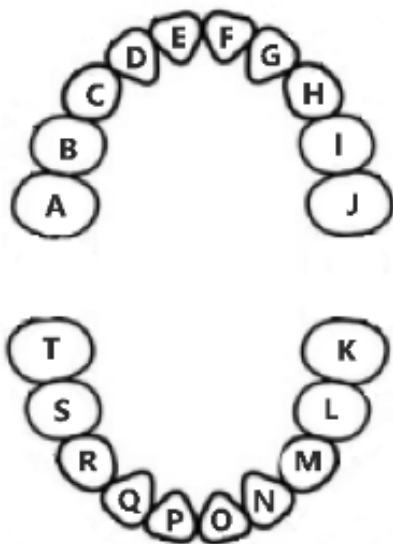
Our mouths contain teeth of various shapes, sizes, and locations in the jaw. Each type of tooth is designed to perform different functions, like biting, tearing, and chewing. How teeth are shaped and aligned affect your smile, speech, and facial shape. People are usually born with 20 baby (primary) teeth, which start to erupt around about 6 months of age and shed at different times throughout childhood. By age 21, all 32 of the permanent teeth (including wisdom teeth) have usually erupted.



The Anatomy of a Tooth

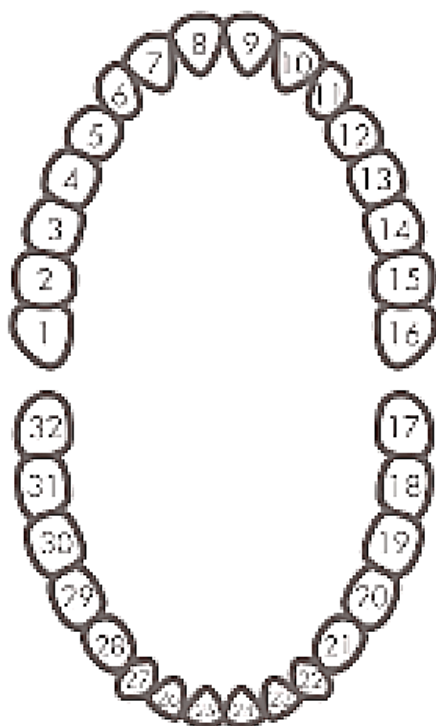
Your teeth are composed of hard (calcified) and soft (non-calcified) dental tissues. Enamel, dentin and cementum are hard tissues. Pulp, or the center of the tooth that contains nerves, blood vessels and connective tissue—is a soft tissue. Each part of the tooth plays a vital role, whether it is to chew or tear food, speak, or even protect the tooth itself from decay.

Primary (Baby) Teeth



Tooth Number	Eruption Age	Shed Age	Upper Teeth
A, J	25-33 mos	10-12 yrs	Second Molar
B, I	13-19 mos	9-12 yrs	First Molar
C, H	16-22 mos	10-12 yrs	Canine (cuspid)
D, G	9-13 mos	7-8 yrs	Lateral Incisor
E, F	8-12 mos	6-7 yrs	Central Incisor
Number	Eruption Age	Shed Age	Lower Teeth
K, T	23-31 mos	10-12 yrs	Second Molar
L, S	14-18 mos	9-11 yrs	First Molar
M, R	17-23 mos	9-12 yrs	Canine (cuspid)
N, Q	10-16 mos	7-8 yrs	Lateral Incisor
O, P	6-10 mos	6-7 yrs	Central Incisor

Permanent (Adult) Teeth



Tooth Number	Eruption Age	Upper Teeth
1, 16	17-21 yrs	Third Molar (Wisdom Teeth)
2, 15	12-13 yrs	Second Molar (12 yr molar)
3, 14	6-7 yrs	First Molar (6 yr molar)
4, 13	10-12 yrs	Second Premolar
5, 12	10-11 yrs	First Premolar
6, 11	11-12 yrs	Canine (cuspid)
7, 10	8-9 yrs	Lateral Incisor
8, 9	7-8 yrs	Central Incisor
Tooth Number	Eruption Age	Lower Teeth
17, 32	17-21 yrs	Third Molar (Wisdom Teeth)
18, 31	12-13 yrs	Second Molar (12 yr molar)
19, 30	6-7 yrs	First Molar (6 yr molar)
20, 29	10-12 yrs	Second Premolar
21, 28	10-11 yrs	First Premolar
22, 27	11-12 yrs	Canine (cuspid)
23, 26	8-9 yrs	Lateral Incisor
24, 25	7-8 yrs	Central Incisor



For more oral health information, please visit our website at www.bcbsfedental.com.



@bcbsfedental