

## Dental Terms Challenge

### How Many M – Q Terms Do You Know?

This blog, previous and subsequent blogs in this series of challenges are not a comprehensive glossary of dental terms. The challenges are intended to be educational in nature and are offered as an entertaining way to learn some words used in the dental world.

Challenge yourself or battle it out with others to get the best score. Tally the score but reduce it by the number of incorrect answers. You can even run it like a game of Jeopardy. However, you decide to play, have fun!

How many dental terms can you match with the correct definition?

Term	Definitions
1. Malocclusion	A. This refers to certain metals such as gold and palladium used to help make crowns. No, not the crowns worn by people of noble birth but crowns for teeth!  Besides gold and palladium other metals such as nickel, chromium, and beryllium can also be used to make crowns or fillings for teeth.
2. Maryland Bridge	B. This word means lid or cover. If you were a fish, it would refer to your gill covering. I must, however, assume since you are reading this, you are human. In your case it refers to the covering of tissue which sits upon an unerupted tooth. This tissue is usually chewed away over time as the tooth erupts.  But, if this tissue fails to disappear, it can become inflamed and will need to be removed surgically. The procedure is known as an _ _ _ _ _ lectomy.
3. Maxilla	C. This word has more than one definition.  It can refer to a person's especially sophisticated appreciation for flavour and taste. But, to a dentist, it refers to the hard and soft tissues forming the roof of the mouth that separates the oral and nasal cavities.
4. Microabrasion	D. This term refers to a medical doctor who specializes in performing surgeries to correct disease or injury to the head, neck, mouth or jaw. These surgeries include procedures of both hard and soft tissue (ie., jaw bones, skin around the mouth.)
5. Moulage	E. This refers to permanent teeth or adult teeth.

6. Nightguard	F. This is an artificial device used to replace or augment a missing or impaired part of the body. In dentistry, this refers to an artificial implant. These implants are constructed in a laboratory and implanted during a dental procedure.
7. Noble Alloy	G. Contrary to what you might think, this is not a crossing over a waterway in the state of Maryland!  In dentistry, this is a procedure used when only one tooth needs to be replaced. It is a denture that is affixed to the two teeth lying on either side of the gap where the original tooth existed.
8. Operculum / Operculumectomy	H. This is a partial or complete denture that is removable. It is unlike some other dentures as it sits on or over real or artificial teeth already present. This makes it unnecessary to remove the old or decayed teeth, allowing the patient to retain feeling in the teeth. Not removing the existing teeth also prevents the jawbone from receding.
9. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon	I. This term generally refers to measures practised to preserve health and prevent the spread of diseases. In the dental world then, this refers to oral health checkups and the scaling, cleaning and polishing performed to remove plaque, tartar and stains.
10. Orthodontist	J. In the field of dentistry, this pertains to sections of teeth in a person's mouth. And, as the root word "quad" suggests, there are four sections of teeth in a person's mouth. They are labelled upper right, upper left, lower right and lower left quadrant.
11. Overdenture	K. This is often used to remove stains on teeth. In this technique, a mixture of hydrochloric acid and pumice is rubbed onto the surface of the tooth repetitively until the outer layers of the enamel containing the stains are abraded (scraped) away.
12. Palate	L. This describes the misalignment of the biting or chewing surfaces of the upper and lower teeth.
13. Parotid Glands	M. This could refer to a person who works the night shift to protect a building. But, we're talking dentistry here so that is definitely not the correct definition!  In the dental world, a nightguard is a plastic device inserted in the mouth at night to prevent damage caused by bruxism (teeth grinding.)

14. Periodontal / Periodontal Disease	<p>N. This French word literally means casting or moulding. In the fashion world it refers to the draping of fabric. But, in dentistry a moulage is a mold or cast used in forensic investigations. For example, it could refer to a cast of a footprint left at a crime scene or a cast of a bite mark left on a victim.</p> <p>The term can also refer to art of using makeup to apply mock injuries or other symptoms for military, emergency and medical training.</p>
15. Permanent Dentition	<p>O. A dental specialist whose practice focuses on correcting abnormalities such as crooked teeth, an overbite or an underbite. Orthodontists use fixed and removable dental devices, like braces, retainers, and bands, to change the position of teeth in the mouth.</p>
16. Prophylaxis	<p>P. This type of dentistry refers to the practice of caring for the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth. If these tissues become diseased, early treatment is essential. Otherwise, the disease can result in the loss of bone in which teeth are anchored and consequently the loss of teeth.</p> <p>A dentist who specializes in this type of dentistry is known as a _____ dentist.</p>
17. Prosthesis	<p>Q. The upper jawbone.</p>
18. Quadrant	<p>R. There are three pairs of major salivary glands. Each pair produces saliva which helps moisten our mouth, soften the food we chew, initiate digestion, protect the teeth from decay, and help keep the mouth clean by washing away germs.</p> <p>These particular glands are the largest of the major salivary glands. They are located in the front of and below the ear.</p>

**Answers**

1. L 2. G 3. Q 4. K 5. N 6. M 7. A 8. B 9. D 10. O

11. H 12. C 13. R 14. P 15. E 16. I 17. F 18. J

**Sources:**

Aspen Dental, <https://www.aspendental.com/oral-health/dental-terms-glossary>

Absolute Dental, <https://www.absolutedental.com/glossary-dental-terms/>

Cambridge English Dictionary, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/>

Dentist Directory Canada, <https://www.dentistdirectorycanada.ca/dental-industry-terminology/>

Merriam Webster Dictionary, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lingual>