

Dental Terms Challenge

How Many R – Z 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. Radiograph	A. This is a plastic resin applied to the biting surfaces of molars to prevent bacteria from attacking the enamel and causing cavities.
2. Reline	B. Try saying this big word 3 times quickly! This word refers to the surgical incision made in a salivary gland or duct in order to remove a calcium stone (also known as a calculus. The procedure is usually done under a local anesthetic.
3. Retainer	C. A fancy word for dry mouth! Dry mouth can occur when there is a change in composition of saliva or when not enough saliva is produced to keep the mouth moist.
4. Root	D. When extensive work is needed to repair a tooth and there isn't sufficient time to make the repair immediately, this temporary measure may be used to alleviate the pain the damaged tooth is causing the patient.
5. Rubber Dam	E. This is one of several major pairs that excrete saliva into the mouth. This pair are the size of walnuts and are located beneath the tongue.

6. Scaling	F. Plants have them and so do teeth! This can be described as the part of a tooth that is connected under the gums. Although it isn't visible, it can be painful if a problem develops in this location.
7. Sealant	G. This is a temporary denture intended for use during the healing period after teeth have been removed. They retain space in the jaw and allow it and the gums to heal before a permanent denture is installed.
8. Sedative filling	H. The act of resurfacing the side of the denture that is in contact with the soft tissues of the mouth to make it fit more securely and comfortably.
9. Sialolithotomy (sounds like: sigh - al - lo - la - thought - a - me)	I. In the dental world, this refers to a tooth or teeth that have not pushed through the gum into the mouth.
10. Submandibular Glands	J. A porcelain or composite covering affixed to the surface of a tooth or teeth. It is used to restore discoloured, or damaged teeth.
11. Supernumerary Teeth	K. This word describes the inability to open one's mouth. Some causes for this problem include spasms in the jaw muscles, unusually short jaw muscles, or a symptom of tetanus. When it is seen as a symptom of tetanus it is sometimes referred to as "lockjaw."
12. Temporomandibular Joint / Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction	L. In the world of dentistry this is unlike those built by humans and beavers. Instead, it is a piece of equipment used to keep a tooth dry during dental work. It is made of a thin sheet of rubber which surrounds the tooth.
13. Transitional	M. Another word for X-ray.
14. Trismus	N. Quadrangular bone on either side of face that forms the cheek prominence. Also known in more simple terms as the cheek bone.
15. Unerupted	O. This refers to extra teeth beyond the typical number of teeth. These are usually found in the mouth but can erupt anywhere inside the head. They can be baby teeth or permanent teeth.

16. Veneer / Laminate Veneer	P. A device used to help align teeth before braces are applied or after they are removed. The device is usually constructed using plastic or wires.
17. Xerostomia	Q. The process of removing plaque, calculus, and stains from a tooth's surface just below the gumline. Also referred to as a deep cleaning.
18. Zygomatic Bone	R. The first term refers to the connecting hinge mechanism between the base of the skull (temporal bone) and the lower jaw (mandible). The second term relates to the inflammation and pain that can occur if the joint malfunctions.

Answers

1. M 2. H 3. P 4. F 5. L 6. Q 7. A 8. D 9. B 10. E

11. O 12. R 13. G 14. K 15. I 16. J 17. C 18. N

Sources:

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