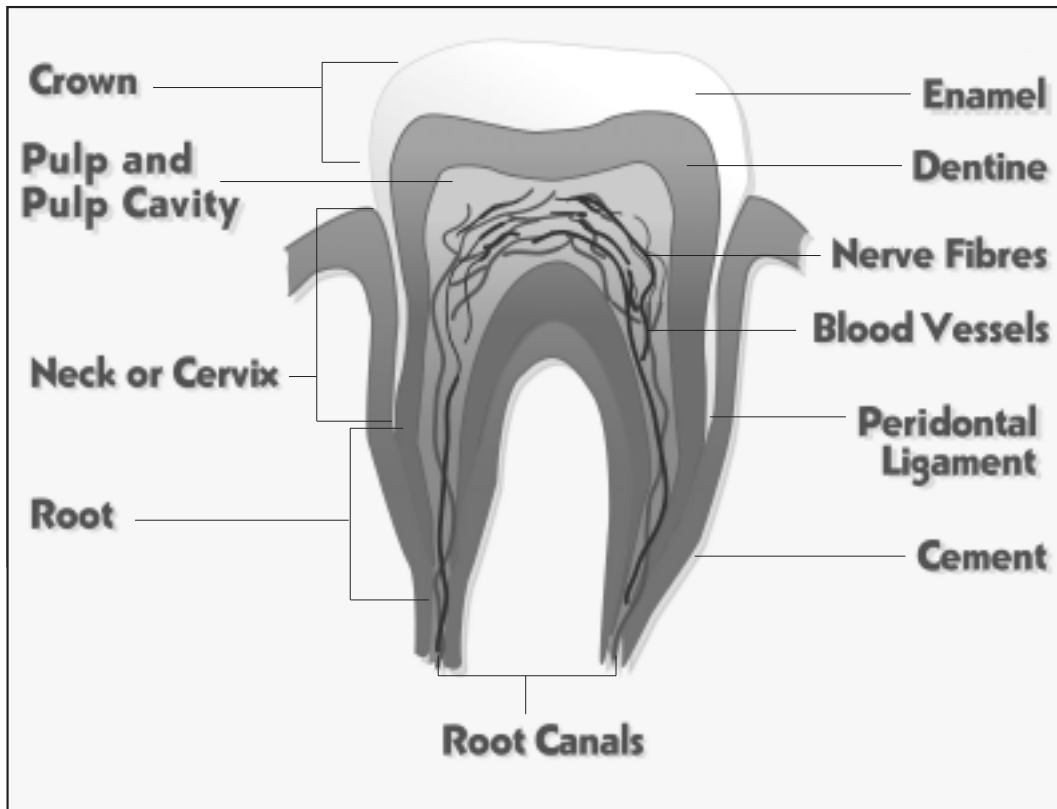


Teeth



Crown

Exposed part of the tooth.

Pulp and Pulp Cavity

The central area of the tooth, surrounded by dentine. It is filled with a soft tissue called pulp which contains the blood vessels and nerve fibre endings. These enter at the base of the root and run up the cavity inside root canals.

Neck or Cervix

The part of the tooth just below the surface of the gum lying between the crown and the root. Regular brushing with toothpaste helps removes the build up of plaque.

BAREFACTS

Root

Part of the tooth that is fixed in the socket or jaw.

Root Canals

Contain blood vessels and nerves and are the route into the tooth.

Enamel

Covers the exposed part of the tooth and is most exposed to decay. Similar to bone, though harder (it is the hardest substance in the body) and has no living cells. It is made up of tightly packed crystals of hydroxyapatite (a mineral made up of phosphorus, calcium, hydrogen and oxygen). Fluorine is replaced by oxygen and hydrogen in hydroxyapatite, which is the component of tooth enamel. Brushing with toothpaste helps build up protection against bacteria.

Dentine

A yellow substance that forms the second layer inside a tooth. Like enamel, it has many of the same constituents as bone but is softer. Dentine also contains collagen, a protein that provides strength and flexibility. The collagen runs from the pulp cells into the pulp cavity.

Nerve Fibres

These end in pain receptors.

Blood Vessels

Supply blood containing 'food' and oxygen to the living tissue.

Peridontal Ligament

Holds the tooth in place by being fixed to the jaw bone at one end and to the cement at the other.

Cement

A bone-like substance similar to enamel, but softer. It forms a thin surface layer and is attached to the jaw bone by the periodontal ligament.