

Going to the Dentist

In this lesson, you will learn useful vocabulary and expressions to use at the dentist's office. Make sure that you know how to describe your pain or discomfort before you see a dentist.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What do you NOT like about going to the dentist?
2. Why is it important to visit a dentist regularly?
3. How do you feel before
AND after you visit a dentist?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. X-ray | a) a picture of the inside of your body |
| _____ 2. floss | b) wires worn to straighten your teeth |
| _____ 3. toothpaste | c) to clean between your teeth |
| _____ 4. fluoride | d) a paste used to brush your teeth |
| _____ 5. braces | e) dental records |
| _____ 6. chart | f) a liquid used for deep cleaning at the dentist's office |
| _____ 7. hygienist | g) a dental assistant |
| _____ 8. needle | h) to pull out (a tooth) |
| _____ 9. antibiotics | i) a sharp metal stick used to freeze the gums |
| _____ 10. extract | j) medicine taken to cure an infection |

Dialogue Reading

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Circle any new words or phrases that you need to practice.

Dentist: Hi, Mr. Peacock. **Are you here for your six-month checkup?**

Mr. Peacock: Yes, but **I also have a sore tooth.** I think I might have a cavity.

Dentist: Okay. **We'll do an X-ray before your cleaning. Which tooth is bugging you?**

Mr. Peacock: It's a molar on the bottom right side.

Dentist: I see the one. **Actually, that's your wisdom tooth.**

Mr. Peacock: **Will it need to come out?**

Dentist: I won't know for sure until I see the X-ray. **Have you been flossing regularly?**

Mr. Peacock: **Not as often as I should, I'm afraid.**

Dentist: **It's really important to take care of your gums.**

Mr. Peacock: I know. I brush twice a day, but I just forget to floss sometimes.

Practice

Work with your partner. Role-play the dialogue on page 2, substituting the different expressions below. Then switch roles.

1. **Are you here for your six-month checkup?**

- Is there a special reason for your visit?
- What brings you in today?
- You're here for a cleaning, right?

2. **I also have a sore tooth.**

- I also have swollen gums.
- I have pain in my jaw, too.
- I have a loose tooth.
- I have a chipped tooth.
- I think I have a cavity.
- It hurts when I chew.
- I have a sensitive tooth.
- It hurts when I eat something cold.
- I have a toothache.

3. **We'll do an X-ray before your cleaning.**

- Open your mouth wide.
- Let's take a look inside.

4. **Which tooth is bugging you?**

- Which tooth is bothering you?
- Where does it hurt?
- Where are you feeling the most pain?

5. **Actually, that's your wisdom tooth.**

- That's your eyetooth.
- That's your molar.
- That's a baby tooth.

6. **Will it need to come out?**

- Are you going to pull the tooth?
- Do I need an extraction?

7. **Have you been flossing regularly?**

- Do you brush twice a day?
- Do you rinse with mouthwash?

8. **Not as often as I should, I'm afraid.**

- I wish I could say yes.
- Not exactly.
- I'm afraid not.

9. **It's really important to take care of your gums.**

- Flossing is actually more important than brushing.
- You should get into a habit of flossing daily.
- Try to make your gums a top priority.

Listening Practice

Listen to the recording of the dialogue from page 2. Fill in the missing words as you listen. Listen again. Now look back at page 2 and check your work. Did you fill in the correct words? Did you spell everything correctly?

Dentist: Hi, Mr. Peacock. Are you here for your six-month _____ ?

Mr. Peacock: Yes, but I also have a _____ tooth.
I think I might have a _____ .

Dentist: Okay. We'll do an _____ before your cleaning.
Which tooth is bugging you?

Mr. Peacock: It's a _____ on the bottom right side.

Dentist: I see the one. Actually, that's your _____ .

Mr. Peacock: Will it need to _____ ?

Dentist: I won't know for sure until I see the X-ray.
Have you been _____ regularly?

Mr. Peacock: Not as _____ as I should, I'm afraid.

Dentist: It's really important to take care of your _____ .

Mr. Peacock: I know. I brush twice a day, but I just forget to _____ sometimes.

Write Your Own Dialogue

Write a dialogue with a partner using phrases from page 3. One of you will be a patient and one of you will be a dentist. Practice and present the dialogue to your class.

[illegible]

Review

Task 1

LISTEN & ANSWER

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions.
Your teacher will tell you if you have to write or say the answers.

1. How long has it been since Mr. Peacock's last visit to the dentist?

2. What two reasons did Mr. Peacock have for going to the dentist?

3. What is the dentist going to do first?

4. According to the dentist, why is flossing important?

5. Describe Mr. Peacock's daily dental routine.

Review cont.

Task 2

I NEED A DENTIST

List five problems you could have with your teeth.
Write (or say) them as if you are talking to a dentist.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Task 3

CALLING THE DENTIST

Pretend to call a dentist's office during off-hours. Leave a message on an answering machine about why your child or spouse needs an appointment with the dentist. State your name and the name of your family member. Then list at least two dental concerns. Make sure to leave a phone number so the dentist office can call you back.

Example

Answering Machine:

Hello. You have reached Squeaky Clean Dentists. Our office is now closed. Please leave a detailed message after the tone and we will return your call. If this is a dental emergency, please call 1-800-M-Y-T-E-E-T-H.

Message:

Hello. This is Marsha Adams. I'm calling about my son, Carson. Carson's back molars are bugging him. I think he might have a cavity. He is also due for a cleaning. Can you please call me back at 444-9990 to make an appointment. Thank you.