

MODULE 2

Clinical Dental Terminology

Objectives

After reading this module you should be able to:

- Identify the difference between a prefix, suffix and root word.
- Have a good working knowledge of word analysis, learn how to separate a word into its parts, determine the meaning of those parts, put the meanings back together in the correct order and thereby understand the word.
- Understand commonly used dental terminology for each specialty.

Introduction

This module will teach you the basics of dental terminology. Even though this module is an introduction, you will most likely come across several dental terms you have never seen before. For this reason, we have added the phonetic spelling of each new dental term in parenthesis after the term. A phonetic spelling spells the word as it sounds. You should practice saying the word out loud after you read it.

The phonetic spelling for each dental term is outlined in the simplest way possible. You should use the following guidelines as you read and speak each term out loud.

- Long vowel sounds are marked with a straight bar over them. For example, the phonetic spelling of plate is (plāt), the phonetic spelling of genes (jēnz), the phonetic spelling of deep (dēp), and so on and so forth.
- Short vowel sounds are marked with a breve (˘) over them. For example, the phonetic spelling of leg is (lĕg), the phonetic spelling of hit is (hĭt), so far so good?
- Primary (') and secondary (") accents are marked as such. The accent that is stressed the most is called the primary accent. For example, a common dental term is "dentist". This word has two short vowels and is accented on the first part of the word. The phonetic spelling of the word is dĕn'tĭst and the word is pronounced DEN-tist.

Mastering dental terminology is often a challenging task. In order to master the terminology presented in this module you, will need to practice. Try practicing with a friend or co-worker, making sure to refer to the definitions until you feel comfortable with the pronunciation and meaning of each term.

You must remember dental terminology isn't an exact science. You will find certain dental terms will vary a little depending on which references you consult. Although, with practice, you will master dental terminology and be able to tackle any terms you come across.

In today's fast paced world, you need to possess strong dental vocabulary skills to succeed in a dental office. However, it is almost impossible to memorize every single dental word in a medical dictionary. The easiest way to master dental terminology is to understand how terms and words are constructed. The following steps will help you learn how to breakdown a word and give it meaning.

TIP: If you understand and know what the parts of a word are and how they function in whole words, you will be able to figure out any term that comes your way.

New words are constantly being used to name new medical/dental discoveries. These unfamiliar words usually have Greek or Latin origins. This is how medical and dental terminology is constructed. Learning dental terminology is a lot like learning a foreign language. Learning another language isn't just a matter of memorizing the vocabulary. There is a certain code to language. The parts need to go into a certain order to make sense. Change the order and more than likely you will change the meaning. Here is an example of a simple sentence illustrating the difference in the order of the words.

The rope hit Bailey.

Hit the rope, Bailey.

Even a small detail like punctuation can change the entire meaning of a sentence.

Bailey hit the rope.

Bailey, hit the rope!

Some combinations don't make any sense, or mean anything at all.

Rope Bailey the hit.

The hit Bailey rope.

This principle applies to dental terminology as well. All words have a specific meaning. If you mix up the order you could change the meaning or the term and make the term seem meaningless. Since dental documents are of grave importance, you cannot afford to type or write the dental equivalent of "the rope Bailey hit in the mouth" when the dentist meant "The rope hit Bailey in the mouth"!

Dental terminology does have a few rules of its own, but the code is easily cracked. If you are able to determine the meaning of the word parts and how those parts function in connection with each other, you will then be able to figure out almost any word you hear. You are about to learn how to analyze a word. The term "analysis" means the separation of any material into its component parts. Word analysis is the most valuable tool in understanding dental terminology. Separate a word into its parts, determine the meaning of those parts, put the meanings back together in the correct order, and thereby understand the word. The following is what you will be looking for when analyzing dental terms.

Suffixes

A suffix is added to the end of a word or stem to complete the word or give it new meaning. In most instances a suffix will indicate the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease.

For example, gingiv/o means gingival tissue, gums. When a suffix is added to the word it changes the meaning by telling you what is happening to the gingiva.

Gingivitis (jin-jih-VYE-tis) means inflammation of the gums (gingiv meaning gums and –itis meaning inflammation).

Gingivectomy (jin-jih-VECK-toh-mee) means surgical removal of gum tissue (gingiv meaning gum tissue and –ectomy meaning the surgical removal).

As stated above, suffixes may give many meanings to a root word. They may change the root word into an adjective (a word that describes a noun) such as periodontal (pehr-ee-oh-DON-tal) meaning pertaining to the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth (peri- meaning surrounding, -odont- meaning teeth and -al means pertaining to). Or they change the word into a noun (person, place or thing), as is the case with the term cranium (KRAY-nee-um), which means the portion of the skull that encloses the brain (crani- meaning skull and -um is a noun ending). They may even give a general meaning, such as abnormal condition or disease, as this is the case with the term halitosis (hal-ih-TOH-sis) meaning an unpleasant breath odor or bad breath caused by dental diseases, respiratory or gastric disorders (halit- means breath and -osis means abnormal condition or disease).

Suffixes may also be related to pathology (the study of disease). The following suffixes identify or describe specific disease or conditions:

- -algia means pain and suffering. Neuralgia (new-RAL-jee-ah) means pain in nerve or nerves (neur- means nerve -algia means pain or suffering).
- -itis means inflammation. Sinusitis (sigh-nuh-SIGH-tis) means inflammation of the sinuses (sinus- means sinus cavity and -itis means inflammation).
- -necrosis means tissue death. Osteonecrosis (oss-tee-oh-neh-KROH-sis) means death of bone tissue (Osteo- means bone and -necrosis means tissue death).

Suffixes may also be related to procedures. The following suffixes identify or describe a procedure that may be performed on a body part or area:

- -centesis means the surgical puncture or aspiration of fluid for diagnostic purposes or to remove excess fluid. Arthrocentesis (ar-thro-sen-TEE-sis) is the surgical puncture of the joint space to remove fluid (arthro- means joint and -centesis means a surgical puncture to remove fluid).
- -ectomy means surgical removal. A Pulpectomy (pul-peh-TECK-toh-mee) is the surgical removal of vital and non-vital pulp tissue from the root canal space (pulp- means vital and non-vital tissue from the root canal space and -ectomy means surgical removal).
- -graphy means the process of recording a picture or record. Radiography (ray-dee-ogREEah-fee) is use of x-rays to expose a film that shows either a single tooth or multiple teeth (radio- means x-rays or radiation and -graphy means process of recording).
- -plasty means surgical repair. Osteoplasty (OSS-tee-oh-plas-tee) is the surgical repair of bones (Osteo- means bones and -plasty means surgical repair).
- -scopy means visual examination. Endoscopy (en-DOS-koh-pee) is the visual examination of the interior of a body cavity by means of a special instrument such as an endoscope.

You should note, not every word ends in a suffix. Words can begin or end with root words and often they will. Let's take a look at prefixes.

Prefixes

A prefix is placed at the beginning of a word and therefore changes the meaning of the word. The word prefix begins with a prefix itself. PRE means "before or in front of." While the root, FIX, means "attach or fasten". This gives us our definition, a prefix is attached in front of something. Prefixes often, but not always, indicate location, time, or number. As with suffixes, not every word begins with a prefix however, a prefix is always placed at the beginning of a word.

The term mandibular means "pertaining to the mandible or lower jaw" (mandibul- means lower jaw and -ar means pertaining to). The following examples will show you how a prefix can change the meaning of a term or root word:

- Submandibular (sub-MAN-dih-bul-are) means pertaining to the space underneath or below the lower jaw. (sub- means under or below -mandibul- means the lower jaw and -ar means pertaining to).
- Supramandibular (sue-pah-rah-MAN-dih-bul-are) means pertaining to the space above the lower jaw (supra- means above or beyond -mandibul- means lower jaw and -ar means pertaining to).

Simply changing one or two letters in a prefix can make a vast difference in the meaning of the entire word. Furthermore, there are some prefixes that are confusing because they are very similar in spelling although they have opposite meanings. You need to remember that terms often begin with root words rather than prefixes. If you mistake a root word for a prefix, you are liable to confuse yourself. If you are unsure whether the term is a root word or prefix, look for the combining vowel that signals a root word such as mandibul/o or gingiv/o if you are unable to find a combining vowel you may safely assume it is a prefix. Remember, prefixes function as adjectives or prepositions; they tend to describe something rather than name something.

Common Prefixes include:

Prefix	Meaning	Example
AB-	Away from	Abnormal Away from normal Not normal
BI-	Two, both	Bilateral Both sides right & left
DIS-	Apart, away from	Dissect Cut apart
HEMI-	Half	Hemisection Separate half of a section, Quadrant or root
INTER-	Between	Interproximal Between the adjoining surfaces
MICRO-	Small	Microscope

		Instrument used to enlarge small objects
PRE-	Before	Premedication The use of medications prior to dental treatment
TRI-	Three	Tricuspid Third cuspid
UNI-	One	Unilateral Affecting only one side

Root Words

Root words are known as combining forms and are the origin of a term. They will act as a foundation for most dental terms. These words will usually function as nouns (person, place or thing) or verbs (action) and are the strongest parts of speech. However, you should be careful not to overlook root words that indicate color such as erythr/o meaning red or leuk/o meaning white.

A root word is the only part of a term that may sometimes stand by itself as a separate word. For example, LARYNG/O, the combining form meaning “throat”. A larynx (lar-RIN-ex) is your throat. This root needs no prefix or suffix to create a complete word.

The letter “o” may come in handy when you are learning and analyzing terms, since this will usually indicate there’s a root word before it. Although the “o” can be helpful when you are learning dental terminology, it may sometimes become confusing. Sometimes it may not be a combining vowel, but instead, it is an actual letter in a prefix, root, or suffix. For example, the term psychotic; the suffix is –OTIC which means the combining vowel is dropped and the remaining “o” becomes part of the suffix.

Don’t expect to become an expert right away. It’s ok if you have some trouble sorting out prefixes, root words and suffixes. Almost everyone does! Once you become comfortable and more confident, you will see the pieces eventually fall into place. Being able to analyze and break down a word will become second nature to you.

The Root Words of Dental Specialists

Root Word	Meaning	Specialist
ORTH/O	Straight, normal	Orthodontist Diagnosis’ and treats abnormalities of teeth position
OR/O MAXILL/O FACI/O	Mouth Jaw	Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon Treats diseases of the mouth, jaw, and face
PED/O	Child	Pedodontist Diagnosing treating and preventing disorders in children’s teeth and mouth
PROSTH/O	Addition, restoration	Prosthodontist Restoration of natural teeth or replacement of missing teeth with artificial substitutes

Common Dental Root Words include:

Root	Meaning
ANESTHET / O	Sensation, sense of perception
ALIGN / O	Bring into line or correct position
ALVEOL / O	Alveolus, air sac, small sac
ANKYL / O	Crooked, bent, stiff
APLAST / O	Lack of development, defective development
ARC / O	Bow, arc or arch
ARTHR / O	Joint
BACTERI / O	Bacteria
BIFURCAT / O	Divide or fork into two branches
BRUX / O	Grind
BUCC / O	Cheek
CALC / O	Calcium
CARCIN / O	Cancerous
CEMENT / O	Cementum, a rough stone
CHONDR / O	Cartilage
CIATRIC / O	Scar
CRANI / O	Skull
CUTANE / O	Skin
DEGLUTIT / O	Swallow
DENT / O	Tooth, teeth
DIPS / O	Thirst
DISLOCAT / O	Displacement
DISSECT / O	Cutting apart
EPIGLOTT / O	Epiglottis
ESOPHAG / O	Esophagus

ETI / O	Cause
EVACU / O	Empty out
EXCIS / O	Cut out
EXHAL / O	Breathe out
FACI / O	Face, form
FIBROS / O	Fibrous connective tissue
FREN / O	Limited movement
FRACT / O	Break, broken
FRONT / O	Forehead, brow
GINGIV / O	Gingival tissue, gums
GLOSS / O	Tongue
GLOTT / O	Back of the tongue
GNATH / O	Jaw
HALIT / O	Breath
HIAT / O	Opening
HIDR / O	Sweat
HIST / O	Tissue
IMPACT / O	Pushed against, wedged against, packed
INFECT / O	Infected, tainted
KEL / O	Growth, tumor
LABI / O	Lip
LARYNG / O	Larynx, throat
LEUK / O	White
LINGU / O	Lingual, tongue
MASTIC / O	Chew
MAXILL / O	Maxilla, upper jaw
MELAN / O	Black, dark

MEMBRAN / O	Membrane, skin tag
MENISC / O	Meniscus, crescent
MESI / O	Middle, median plan
MUC / O	Mucus
MUSCUL / O	Muscle
MUT / O	Unable to speak, inarticulate
MYX / O	Mucus
NARC / O	Numbness
NAS / O	Nose
NECR / O	Death
NERV / O	Nerve
NODUL / O	Nodule, little knot
OCCLUS / O	Shut, close up
ODONT / O	Tooth
OLFACT / O	Smell, sense of smell
ONC / O	Tumor
OR / O	Mouth, oral cavity
ORTH / O	Straight, normal, correct
OSTE / O	Bone
OSM / O	Pushing, thrusting
PALAT / O	Palate, roof of mouth
PHARYNG / O	Throat, pharynx
PHLEGM / O	Thick mucus
PLAC / O	Flat plate or patch
PLAK / O	Plaque
PLAS / O	Development, growth formation
POSTER / O	Behind, toward the back

PROSTH / O	Addition
PUR / O	Pus
PY / O	Pus
QUADR / O	Four
RADI / O	X-rays, radiation
RADICUL / O	Nerve root
RHIN / O	Nose
SALIV / O	Saliva
SIAL / O	Saliva
SIALADEN / O	Salivary gland
SINUS / O	Sinus
SPUT / O	Spit
TEMPOR / O	Temporal bone, temple
ULCER / O	Sore, Ulcer
ZYGOMAT / O	Cheek bone

Common Clinical Dental Terms

There are several dental terms you need to be familiar with when working in a dental office. Dental Coding and Billing is one of the most demanding professions in terms of knowledge and skills required. If you are not familiar with commonly used terms and language in a dental office, you may find yourself lost and confused. Below is a list of dental specialties that are officially recognized by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation:

Endodontics	This specialty is concerned with the etiology, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular conditions. These dentists specialize in root canal therapy.
Oral Pathology	This specialty focuses on the nature of the diseases affecting the oral structures and adjacent regions. These dentists focus on recognition, diagnosis, investigation and management of diseases of the oral cavity and jaw.

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon	This specialty is concerned with the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries, deformities, defects and esthetic aspects of the mouth, face and neck. These dentists usually remove impacted wisdom teeth and correct facial deformities such as cleft palate.
Orthodontics	This specialty focuses on the interception and treatment of malocclusion (misalignment) of the teeth and their surrounding structures. This dentist places and removes braces.
Pediatric Dentistry	This specialty focuses on the preventative and therapeutic oral healthcare of children from birth through adolescence. They may also care for special patients beyond adolescence who demonstrate mental and or physical ailments. This dentist is also known as a Pedodontist.
Periodontics	This specialty focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of the supporting and surrounding gum tissue of the teeth.
Prosthodontics	This specialty focuses on restoration and maintenance of oral functions by restoring natural teeth or replacing missing teeth. This dentist is known for crowns, bridges and dentures.

Depending on which specialty you work in, you will hear different commonly used terms. We want you to be familiar with all dental terms so you are well versed and can work in any type of office. However, to make it easier to remember, we have broken the terms up into specialty groups:

1. General Terms
2. Endodontic Terms
3. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Terms
4. Orthodontic Terms
5. Periodontic Terms

TIP: Make flash cards and test yourself

Commonly used General Terms

- **Anesthesia:** there are four types of anesthesia used:
 1. General anesthesia: a controlled state of unconsciousness, accompanied by a partial or complete loss of protective reflexes, including loss of ability to independently maintain airway and respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command.
 2. Intravenous sedation/analgesia: a medically controlled state of depressed consciousness while maintaining the patient's airway, protective reflexes and the ability to respond to stimulation or verbal command.
 3. Local anesthesia: an injection given to numb the area, the loss of pain sensation over a specific area of the mouth without loss of consciousness.
 4. Non-intravenous conscious sedation: a medically controlled state of depressed consciousness while maintaining the patient's airway, protective reflexes and the ability to respond to stimulation or verbal commands.
- **Anterior:** refers to the teeth and tissues located towards the front of the mouth
- **Anxiolysis:** reduction of anxiety utilizing a pharmacologic agent such a benzodiazepine or nitrous oxide
- **Buccal:** pertaining to or around the cheek
- **Deglutition:** meaning to swallow
- **Dental prophylaxis:** scaling and polishing procedure to remove coronal plaque, calculus, and stains
- **Distal:** toward the back of the dental arch
- **Enamel:** hard calcified tissue covering dentin of the crown of a tooth
- **Evaluation:** there are seven different types of dental evaluations or examinations:
 1. Periodic oral evaluation (D0120): this is performed on an established patient to check for any changes in the patients dental or medical health status. This is typically done once every 6 months.
 2. Limited oral evaluation (D0140): this is a problem focused exam. For example, if a patient comes in complaining of a toothache.
 3. Oral evaluation for a patient under three years of age and counseling with primary caregiver (D0145): This type of exam is performed on a child under the age of three, preferably within the first six months of the eruption of the first primary tooth.
 4. Comprehensive oral evaluation (D0150): This type of exam is usually preformed on a new patient and is done when the general dentist or specialist is evaluating the patient comprehensively. It is a complete and thorough exam.
 5. Comprehensive periodontal evaluation (D0180): this exam is typically performed by a periodontist. It will typically include periodontal charting, oral cancer screening and a complete dental and medical history.
 6. Detailed and extensive oral evaluation (D0160): a detailed and extensive problem focused exam followed by a report. This type of exam is usually preformed by an oral surgeon evaluating TMJ disorders or dentofacial anomalies.
 7. Re-evaluation- limited or problem focused (D0170): this exam is used when the patient is seen for assessing the status of a previously existing condition.
- **Extraoral:** outside the mouth
- **Facial:** the surface of the tooth directed toward the face
- **Incisal:** pertaining to the biting edges of the incisor and cuspid teeth
- **Interproximal:** between the adjoining surfaces of adjacent teeth in the same arch
- **Intraoral:** inside the mouth
- **Labial:** pertaining to or around the lip

- **Palate:** the hard and soft tissues forming the roof of the mouth that separates the oral and nasal cavities
- **Lingual:** pertaining to or around the tongue, surface of the tooth directed toward the tongue
- **X-ray:** also known as radiograph, is a negative image on photographic film made by exposure to radiation that have passed through matter or tissue

Commonly used Endodontic terms

- **Abscess:** acute or chronic, localized inflammation, with a collection of pus, associated with tissue destruction and frequent swelling usually secondary to infection
- **Periapical abscess:** acute or chronic inflammation and pus formation at the end of a tooth root in the alveolar bone, secondary to infection
- **Apicoectomy:** amputation of the apex of a tooth
- **Apex:** the tip or end of the tooth root
- **Canal:** a relatively narrow tubular passage or channel
- **Root canal:** space inside the root portion of a tooth containing pulp tissue
- **Cementum:** hard connective tissue covering the tooth root
- **Periapical cyst:** cyst at the apex of the tooth with a non-vital pulp
- **Decay:** the lay term for carious lesions in a tooth; also known as a cavity
- **Dentin:** the part of the tooth that is beneath enamel and cementum
- **Direct pulp cap:** procedure in which the exposed pulp is covered with a dressing or cement with the aim of maintaining pulp vitality
- **Enamel:** hard calcified tissue covering dentin of the crown of tooth
- **Furcation:** the anatomic area of a multi-rooted tooth where the roots diverge
- **Hemisection:** surgical separation of a multi-rooted tooth
- **Indirect pulp cap:** procedure in which the nearly exposed pulp is covered with a protective dressing to protect the pulp from additional injury and to promote healing and repair via formation of secondary dentin
- **Palliative:** action that relieves pain but is not curative.
- **Periapical:** the area surrounding the end of the tooth root
- **Pulp:** connective tissue that contains blood vessels and nerve tissue which occupies the pulp cavity of a tooth
- **Pulp cavity:** the space within a tooth which contains the pulp
- **Pulpectomy:** complete removal of vital and non-vital pulp tissue from the root canal space
- **Pulpitis:** inflammation of the dental pulp
- **Pulpotomy:** surgical removal of a portion of the pulp with the aim of maintaining the vitality of the remaining portion by means of an adequate dressing.
- **Radicular:** pertaining to the root
- **Retrograde filling:** a method of sealing the root canal by preparing and filling it from the root apex
- **Root:** the anatomic portion of the tooth that is covered by cementum and is located in the alveolus (socket) where it is attached by the periodontal ligaments.
- **Residual root:** the remaining root structure following the loss of the major portion (over 75%) of the crown of the tooth
- **Root canal:** the portion of the pulp cavity inside the root of a tooth; the chamber within the root of the tooth that stores the pulp

- **Root canal therapy:** the removal of the pulp designed to treat the disease and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular conditions

Commonly used Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Terms

- **Alloplastic:** refers to synthetic material often used for tissue augmentation
- **Alveoloplasty:** surgical procedure for re-contouring alveolar structures, usually in preparation for prosthesis such as a denture
- **Avulsion:** also known as evulsion, separation of the tooth from its socket due to trauma
- **Benign:** the mild character of an illness or the non-malignant (non-cancerous) character of a neoplasm
- **Bilateral:** pertaining to both sides of a body surface (right and left)
- **Biopsy:** process of removing tissue for histological evaluation
- **Bruxism:** grinding of the teeth, usually unintentional
- **Caries:** referring to tooth decay (cavity)
- **Cleft palate:** congenital deformity resulting in lack of fusion of the soft and or hard palate, this may be either partial or complete
- **Clenching:** the biting down or pressing of the jaws and teeth together in occlusion with great pressure or force
- **Closed reduction:** the re-approximation of segments of a fractured bone without open surgery
- **Compound fracture:** also known as an open fracture, is one in which the break in the bone is exposed to external contamination
- **Curettage:** scraping and cleaning the walls of a cavity or gingival pocket
- **Cyst:** pathological cavity, usually lined with epithelium, containing fluid or soft matter
- **Odontogenic cyst:** cyst derived from the epithelium (a protective covering for all of the internal and external surfaces) of odontogenic tissue (developmental)
- **Deciduous:** also known as primary teeth, having the qualities of falling off or shedding
- **Dentition:** the teeth in the dental arch
- **Permanent dentition:** refers to the adult teeth or permanent teeth in the dental arch
- **Deciduous dentition:** refers to primary or baby teeth in the dental arch
- **Discectomy:** excision of the intra-articular disc of a joint
- **Displaced tooth:** partial avulsion of a tooth in any direction or area of the mouth
- **Evulsion:** also known as avulsion, a separation of the tooth from its socket due to trauma
- **Excision:** surgical removal of bone or tissue
- **Foramen:** natural opening into or through bone
- **Frenum:** muscle fibers covered by a mucous membrane that attaches the cheek, lips and or tongue to associated dental mucosa
- **Impacted tooth:** an un-erupted or partially erupted tooth that is positioned against another tooth, bone, or soft tissue so that complete eruption is unlikely
- **Implant:** material inserted or grafted into tissue
- **Jaw:** common name for the mandible or maxilla
- **Lesion:** injury or wound; area of diseased tissue
- **Malar:** pertaining to the cheek bone
- **Malignant:** having the properties of invasion or metastasis (cancerous)
- **Maxilla:** upper jaw
- **Mucous membrane:** also known as the mucosa, the lining of the oral cavity

- **Obturator:** a disc or plate which closes an opening; a prosthesis that closes an opening in the palate
- **Odontogenic:** forming teeth, arising in tissues that give origin to the teeth
- **Operculectomy:** removal of operculum (tissue over an un-erupted or partially erupted tooth)
- **Orthognathic:** functional relationship between the maxilla and mandible
- **Osteoplasty:** surgical repair of bone
- **Osteotomy:** surgical cutting or opening of bone
- **Palate:** the hard and soft tissues forming the roof of the mouth
- **Parafunctional:** other than normal function or use
- **Sialodochoplasty:** the surgical repair of a defect and/or restoration of a portion of the salivary gland duct
- **Sialography:** diagnostic visual exam of the salivary ducts and glands by x-ray after a radiopaque injection has been administered
- **Sialolithotomy:** surgical removal or opening by which to remove a stone within a salivary gland or duct
- **Suture:** stitch used to close an incision or wound
- **Temporomandibular joint (TMJ):** the connecting hinge mechanism between the base of the skull and the lower jaw
- **Temporomandibular joint dysfunction:** abnormal function of the TMJ
- **Torus:** a bony elevation or protuberance of bone
- **Transseptal:** through or across a septum
- **Trismus:** restricted ability to open the mouth
- **Un-erupted:** tooth/teeth that have not penetrated into the oral cavity
- **Unilateral:** pertaining to one side
- **Vestibuloplasty:** surgical procedure used to increase relative alveolar ridge height
- **Xerostomia:** decreased salivary secretion it may create a dry or burning sensation of the oral mucosa
- **Zygomatic bone:** quadrangular bone on either side of the face that forms the cheek prominence, see also malar

Commonly used Orthodontic Terms

- **Activator:** is an appliance designed to promote the expansion of an arch
- **Anchorage:** the ability of a tooth to resist displacement (movement) by applied mechanical forces
- **Anderson Appliance:** lies loose in the mouth, stimulating the muscles to provide a reflex closure of the mandible and causing the teeth to contact the appliance. The appliance trains and directs the muscles of the mouth to shape the occlusion.
- **Angle's Class I or Neutroocclusion:** the anterior or individual teeth are misaligned in their position in the arch. The relationship of the permanent first molars determines classification.
- **Angle's Class II or Distocclusion:** the mandibular arch and the body of the mandible are in distal relationship to the maxillary arch by half the width of the permanent first molar. This frequently gives the appearance that the maxillary anterior teeth protrude.
- **Angle's Class III or Mesioocclusion:** the mandibular arch and the body of the mandible are in bilateral, mesial relationship to the maxillary teeth. This frequently gives the appearance that the mandible protrudes.

- **Appliance:** a device used to provide function or therapeutic effect
- **Articulation:** the contact relationship of upper and lower teeth as they move against each other
- **Bands:** are preformed stainless steel rings that are fitted around the teeth and cemented in place
- **Bioversion:** is the inclination of the teeth to extend facially beyond the normal overlap of the incisal edge of the maxillary incisors over the mandibular incisors
- **Bonding:** the force by which a substance is secured in intimate contact with another substance. It may be mechanical, chemical or physical
- **Brackets:** a small attachment used to fasten the arch wire to the teeth or to the orthodontic band
- **Cephalometric radiograph:** a radiographic (x-ray) head film utilized in the scientific study of the measurements of the head with the relation to specific reference points
- **Centric Occlusion:** when the jaws are closed in a position that produces maximum stable contact between the occluding surfaces of the maxillary and mandibular teeth
- **Cross Bite:** an abnormal relation of one or more teeth of one arch to the opposing tooth or teeth of the other arch due to labial, buccal or lingual deviation of tooth position, or abnormal jaw position
- **Crozat Appliance:** is a removable appliance designed to exert a gentle force on the teeth to effect movement during treatment
- **Diagnostic Cast:** plaster or stone model of teeth and adjoining tissues; also referred to as study model
- **Diastema:** an abnormal space between two adjacent teeth in the same arch, usually found between the maxillary central incisors
- **Equilibration:** the act of putting the mandible in a state of balance with the maxilla
- **Hawley Retainer:** is worn to passively retain the teeth in their new position following the removal of orthodontic bands
- **Ligature tie wires:** stainless steel wire used to bind teeth together or to hold structure in place
- **Linguoversion:** refers to the position of the maxillary incisors as being in back of the opposing mandibular incisors
- **Moulage:** a positive reproduction of a body part formed on a cast from a negative impression
- **Overbite:** a vertical overlap or projection of upper teeth over the lowers
- **Overjet:** a horizontal overlap or projection of upper teeth over the lowers
- **Protrusion:** a position of the mandible placed as far forward as possible from the centric position as related to the maxilla
- **Prognathism:** the abnormal projection of one or both jaws beyond the established normal relationship with the cranial base
- **Rotating:** is the force of moving it to the right or left in its socket
- **Separators:** elastic, steel, spring, or brass wire are used to create temporary space between the teeth that are to be banded
- **Space maintainer:** is made of acrylic or metal and is used to hold the space between a tooth that has been lost prematurely or is pending eruption
- **Tension:** refers to the side of the tooth away from the direction in which the tooth is being moved
- **Tipping:** refers to moving the tooth more upright.=
- **Tongue thrust:** the act of pressing the tongue forward against the anterior teeth each time a person swallows

Commonly used Periodontic Terms

- **Acute Necrotizing Ulcerative Gingivitis:** also known as ANUG, is a recurrent gingivitis of young and middle aged adults characterized clinically by gingival erythema (redness) and pain, odor, and necrosis (death) or separation of interdental papillae and marginal gingival which will sometimes appear gray in color
- **Allogenic graft:** having cell types that are anti-genetically distinct from a patient's cell type
- **Alloplastic:** refers to synthetic material often used for tissue augmentation
- **Alveoloplasty:** surgical procedure for re-contouring alveolar structures, usually in preparation for prosthesis
- **Autogenous graft:** is taken from one part of a patient's body and transferred to another
- **Calculus:** an accumulation of inorganic salts of the saliva or blood. Hard deposits of mineralized material adhering to crowns and/or roots of teeth
- **Connective tissue:** the tissue located between the pocket wall and the alveolus
- **Crown Lengthening:** surgical procedure exposing more teeth for restorative purposes
- **Curettage:** the process of cleansing an area or pocket by removing dead or necrotic tissue in the infected area
- **Debridement:** removal of subgingival and/or supragingival plaque and calculus which obstructs the ability to perform an evaluation
- **Dental implant:** a device specially designed to be placed surgically within or on the mandibular or maxillary bone as a means of providing for dental replacement. The three types are: endosteal (endosseous), eposteal (subperiosteal), or transosteal (transosseous).
- **Gingivectomy:** the surgical removal of the soft tissue wall of a periodontal pocket
- **Gingivitis:** inflammation of gingival tissue without loss of connective tissue
- **Gingivoplasty:** the surgical procedure by which gingival deformities particular enlargements are reshaped and reduced to create normal and functional form
- **Graft:** a piece of tissue or alloplastic material placed in contact with tissue to repair a defect or supplement a deficiency
- **Histopathology:** the study of disease processes at the cellular level
- **Homologous graft:** a graft transplanted from a donor of the same species (human)
- **Implant:** material inserted or grafted into tissue
- **Mobility:** the movement of the tooth within the socket
- **Osseous surgery:** the surgical procedure to reshape the alveolus while maintaining basic support to the teeth it may be either additive or subtractive in nature
- **Pericoronitis:** a condition caused by inflammation and infection of the gingival tissues surrounding the crown of an erupted tooth
- **Periodontal Abscess:** abscess of the gingival or periodontal tissue secondary to periodontal infection
- **Periodontal Charting:** the act of charting the periodontal pockets for depth and disease, to map out missing teeth and make an overall assessment of the mouth
- **Periodontal disease:** inflammatory condition of the gingival tissues and/or periodontal membrane of the teeth
- **Periodontal maintenance:** therapy for preserving the state of health of the periodontium, also known as routine periodontal cleanings
- **Plaque:** a soft sticky substance that accumulates on teeth composed largely of bacteria and bacterial derivatives

- **Quadrant:** one of the four equal sections into which the dental arches can be divided; it begins at the midline of the arch and extends distally to the last tooth
- **Root Planing:** the process of removing microbial flora, bacterial toxins, calculus, and diseased cementum or dentin on the root surfaces and in the pocket
- **Scaling:** the process of removing calculus, plaque, and bacteria, using instruments designed to reach under the mass and remove debris in teeth
- **Stomatitis:** inflammation of the membranes of the mouth
- **Sulcus:** the singular and describes the area surrounding one tooth
- **Sulci:** the plural form of sulcus and describes the area surrounding more than one tooth
- **Tissue Conditioning:** the material intended to be placed in contact with tissues, for a limited time period, with the aim of assisting the return to a healthy condition

Commonly used Prosthodontic Terms

- **Abutment:** a natural tooth that becomes the support for the replacement tooth or teeth
- **Abutment Crown:** artificial crown serving for the retention of support of a dental prosthesis
- **Anatomical Crown:** the portion of tooth normally covered by, and including enamel
- **Articulator:** a laboratory device that simulates the movements of the mandible and the temporal mandibular joint
- **Artificial crown:** restoration covering or replacing the major part, or the whole of the clinical crown of a tooth.
- **Bridge:** a series of fabricated teeth used to replace missing teeth using healthy teeth as anchors
- **Clinical Crown:** the portion of a tooth not covered by supporting tissues
- **Dental prosthesis:** any device or appliance replacing one or more missing teeth
- **Denture:** an artificial substitute for natural teeth and adjacent tissues
- **Denture base:** the part of a denture that makes contact with soft tissue and retains the artificial teeth
- **Direct restoration:** a restoration fabricated inside the mouth
- **Edentulous:** without teeth
- **Electrosurgery:** the surgery performed using an electric tip that quickly cuts away the excess tissue and controls the bleeding
- **Equilibration:** reshaping the occlusal surfaces of the teeth to create harmonious contact relationships between the upper and lower teeth; also known as occlusal adjustment
- **Fixed partial denture:** is a prosthetic replacement of one or more missing teeth cemented or attached to the abutment teeth or implant abutments adjacent to the space
- **Immediate denture:** a prosthesis device constructed for placement immediately after removal of remaining natural teeth
- **Maryland Bridge:** fixed partial denture featuring conservative retainers which are resin bonded to abutments
- **Overdenture:** a removable prosthetic device that overlies and may be supported by retained tooth roots or implants
- **Partial denture:** usually refers to a prosthetic device that replaces missing teeth; this is typically used for patients that are partially edentulous
- **Pontic:** an artificial tooth, or part of the dental appliance, that replaces a missing natural tooth
- **Post:** an elongated projection fitted and cemented within the prepared root canal; this is used to strengthen and retain restorative material and/or a crown restoration

- **Precision attachment:** interlocking device, one component of which is fixed to an abutment or abutments and the other is integrated into a fixed or removable prosthesis in order to stabilize and/or retain it
- **Prosthesis:** an artificial replacement of any part of the body
- **Rebase:** process of refitting a denture by replacing the base material
- **Reline:** process of resurfacing the tissue side of a denture with new base material
- **Removable prosthesis:** dental prosthesis designed to be removed and reinserted by the patient
- **Stress breaker:** the part of a tooth-borne and/or tissue-borne prosthesis designed to relieve the abutment teeth and their supporting tissues from harmful stress
- **Study model:** plaster or stone model of teeth and adjoining tissues; also referred to as diagnostic cast
- **Veneer:** a layer of tooth colored material usually made up of either porcelain, composite or acrylic resin that is attached to the surface of the tooth by direct fusion, cementation or mechanical retention. This type of restoration is placed in the facial surface of the tooth.
- **Wax pattern:** a wax form that is the positive likeness of an object to be fabricated

Now that you have completed the reading, make sure to watch the video on proper pronunciation and complete the end of module exam.