

bacteria	tiny germs. Those in your mouth can create acid which can cause tooth decay.
braces	wires which put pressure on teeth to move them into correct position
calcium	mineral which makes teeth and bones strong
canines (cuspids)	pointed teeth at the sides of your mouth that are used to tear food
cavity	a hole in a tooth caused by decay
crown	the part of the tooth that shows above the gum
dental hygienist	a person who cleans teeth, takes dental X-rays, and helps patients learn how to care for their teeth
dentin	the layer of a tooth below the enamel
dentist	a doctor who takes care of teeth
digestion	breaking down food so that it can be used by the body
enamel	the hard white outside layer of a tooth
filling or amalgam	material the dentist puts into a cavity to stop tooth decay
floss	special thread used to clean food and plaque from between teeth
fluoride	a mineral which may be added to water or toothpaste to make enamel stronger
gum	soft pink skin that covers the jawbone and surrounds the necks of teeth
incisors	flat front teeth used for cutting
molars	wide grinding teeth at the back of the mouth
permanent teeth	teeth that replace the primary teeth
plaque	a sticky film with germs that forms on your teeth and can cause cavities

primary teeth	a person's first set of teeth, often called baby teeth
pulp	blood vessels and nerves at the center of the tooth
root	the base of the tooth. The root holds the tooth in the jawbone.
saliva	the watery liquid in the mouth that mixes with food and helps digestion
toothbrush	a small brush for cleaning teeth
X-ray	a special photograph showing the bone structure inside the body. Dentists use X-rays to see between and inside teeth.