Dental Dictionary Answer Key

Word Bank
Canines  Enamel  Mastication  Pharynx  Tartar
Cavity  Gingivitis  Mucous membranes  Plaque  Tonsils
Cementum  Halitosis  Palate  Pulp  Uvula
Dentin  Incisors  Periodontitis  Salivary glands  Wisdom teeth

1. To the sides of the incisors are the long, sharp _______ canines _______, two on the bottom and two on the top. The upper ones are sometimes called eyeteeth or cuspids.

2. The _______ uvula ______ is the dangling fleshy object at the back of the mouth.

3. The membrane-covered roof of the mouth is called the _______ palate ______.

4. A hard yellow substance surrounding the pulp, _______ dentin ______ makes up most of the tooth.

5. _______ Tartar ______ is plaque in a hardened form that is more damaging and difficult to remove.

6. Bad breath, or _______ halitosis ______, is caused by odor-producing bacteria that grow in the mouth.

7. _______ Wisdom teeth ______ get their name because, as the last teeth to erupt, they break through when a person is becoming an adult and is supposedly wiser.

8. Under the gum line, a bony layer of _______ cementum ______ covers the outside of the root and holds the tooth in place within the jawbone.

9. The _______ pulp ______ is the soft, innermost portion of the tooth. It’s made of connective tissue, nerves, and blood vessels, which nourish the tooth.

10. _______ Tonsils ______ are located on either side of the uvula and look like twin pillars holding up the opening to the pharynx.
11. Teeth are needed for _____ mastication _____ (a fancy way of saying chewing), the process by which we tear, cut, and grind food in preparation for swallowing.

12. _____ Gingivitis _____, the first stage of gum disease, is usually caused by the accumulation of tartar.

13. When gingivitis isn’t treated, it can lead to _____ periodontitis _____, in which the gums loosen around the teeth and pockets of bacteria and pus form, sometimes damaging the supporting bone and causing tooth loss.

14. The hard palate divides the mouth from the nose above. The soft palate forms a curtain between the mouth and the throat (or _____ pharynx _____) to the rear.

15. When bacteria and food particles settle on teeth, the bacteria digest the carbohydrates (sugars) in the food and produce acid, which dissolves the tooth’s enamel and causes a _____ cavity _____.

16. _____ Plaque _____ forms when bacteria and food particles are allowed to settle on the teeth.

17. _____ Enamel _____, the hardest tissue in the body, is the outermost layer covering the tooth.

18. The mouth is lined with _____ mucous membranes _____, which produce mucus to keep it moist.

19. _____ Salivary glands _____ secrete saliva, which moistens food and contains digestive enzymes that help break down food.

20. _____ Incisors _____ are the squarish, sharp-edged teeth at the front and middle of the mouth. There are four on the bottom and four on the top.