

Name: Date:

Read the following non-chronological report about teeth.

Open Wide!

Teeth under the spotlight:

Teeth! We are all born with them and most of us still have them throughout our lives. But for a few people, looking after their teeth properly is just too much trouble. Perhaps they have bad habits or they are frightened of the dentist. In this report, we will look down the throat of some of the disasters that dentist drill down into every day of the week. Is there a way to prevent this decaying situation?

Drilling down to the root of the problem:

One of the most common problems dentists have told us about is when their patients do not look after their teeth properly. Most people probably know that you should brush your teeth twice a day. However, you have to brush them properly. Dentists, who try hard to teach their patients how to brush, often see the results of bad brushing habits. A patient who brushes too hard will damage their gums and also wear down the enamel on their teeth – the rock-solid white coating on each tooth. Those who use an old toothbrush, and people who don't spend enough time brushing, may fail to clean their teeth properly. This can cause many problems.

Filling you in on tooth disease:

Even though teeth are made from the strongest substance in the human body (enamel), damage can happen over long periods of time. If teeth are not cleaned, and cleaned thoroughly, plaque forms on their surfaces. Plaque, a sticky substance, is a build-up of microorganisms that feed on the left-over food. These tiny creatures leave behind acids which then cause tiny holes, called cavities, in the teeth. Eventually the damage worsens, causing teeth to crumble and decay. When a dentist spots these holes, one answer may be to fill them (by painful drilling and filling) or to extract the tooth completely. Once an adult tooth is lost, another one will not grow to replace it. This can leave an unsightly gap, or the hole may need to be closed with an expensive false tooth. So, the message coming out of our mouths is loud and clear:

Look after your teeth!



Use the report to answer the following questions.

1. Here is a section of text from the first paragraph. Underline a pun that the writer has used to add humour.

In this report, we will look down the throat of some of the disasters that dentist drill down into every day of the week. Is there a way to prevent this decaying situation?

2. What reasons does the author give for people not looking after their teeth? Tick two.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People are too busy to go to the dentist. | <input type="checkbox"/> People have got into bad habits. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People enjoy going to the dentist. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentist will drill down into their teeth. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People are scared of the dentist. | |

3. Read the second paragraph. Some people brush their teeth twice a day, but they still have problems with their teeth? Explain why.

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4. Find and explain the meaning of 'plaque'.

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5. What are 'cavities'? What two things may happen if a dentist discovers them?

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6. Read the third paragraph. What is it mainly about? Tick one:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> False teeth. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentists enjoy giving fillings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removing bad teeth because of decay. | <input type="checkbox"/> How teeth can become damaged over time by plaque. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Looking after your teeth. | |

Answers

1. Here is a section of text from the first paragraph. Underline a pun that the writer has used to add humour.

*In this report, we will look **down the throat** of some of the disasters that dentist **drill down** into every day of the week. Is there a way to prevent this **decaying** situation?*

2. What reasons does the author give for people not looking after their teeth. Tick two.

People enjoy going to the dentist.

People have got into bad habits.

3. Read the second paragraph. Some people brush their teeth twice a day, but they still have problems with their teeth? Explain why:

People may not brush their teeth correctly – they may brush too hard damaging their gums and wearing down the enamel on their teeth. They may also be using an old tooth brush or failing to brush their teeth for long enough.

4. Find and explain the meaning of 'plaque'.

Plaque is a sticky substance which is the result of a build-up of microorganisms that feed on left-over food when teeth are not brushed correctly.

5. What are 'cavities'? What two things may happen if a dentist discovers them?

Cavities are tiny holes which form in the teeth. They can be drilled and filled or, in severe cases, they may be removed.

6. Read the third paragraph. What is it mainly about? Tick one:

Looking after your teeth.