A Visit to the Dentist

Activity Type

Reading and Vocabulary Exercises: reading comprehension, crossword, gap-fill, comparing

Focus

Dentist vocabulary

Aim

To learn and practice vocabulary associated with visiting the dentist.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this visiting the dentist worksheet, students learn and practice vocabulary associated with going to the dentist.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students read a text about a visit to the dentist.

Next, students answer comprehension questions about the text in their own words.

Exercise B - Answer key (some answers may vary)

1. He had been suffering from a toothache.
2. He felt nervous. / He had butterflies in his stomach.
3. He brushes three times a day with special toothpaste and an electric toothbrush, flosses every evening, uses mouthwash regularly, and hardly ever eats sugary snacks.
4. He couldn't tell him because he had his hands (two enormous rubber fingers) in his mouth.
5. He needed a filling because he had a cavity.
6. He used a drill to fill the cavity.
7. She told him to spit (into the small tray beside the chair).
8. Doctor Jaws said he needed braces because his teeth were crooked.

Students then read clues and complete a crossword using the dentist vocabulary in bold from the text.

Exercise C - Answer key

Across	Down
1. waiting room	2. toothache
5. floss	3. receptionist
6. numb	4. mouthwash
10. drill	5. filling
11. spit	7. braces
12. cavity	8. x-ray
13. toothpaste	9. hygienist

Lastly, students complete sentences about dental health so that they are true for them. Students then compare their answers with a partner and discuss the similarities and differences.

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A Visit to the Dentist

A. Read the text about Jim's visit to the dentist.

I have never enjoyed visiting the dentist, so I try my very best to do so as infrequently as possible. Unfortunately, I'd been suffering from a painful **toothache** for a few weeks and knew something had to be done. So, I finally made an appointment, and here I was. As I sat in the **waiting room**, I had butterflies in my stomach. I was so busy thinking about what was going to happen to me that when I finally heard my name being called, I nearly fell off my chair.

I got up and walked slowly towards the examination room, which was full of lights and strange equipment. Mary, the **hygienist**, greeted me with a smile and told me to sit down in the big green chair. She put a bib around my neck, took an **X-ray** of my mouth, and said, "Doctor Jaws will be with you in a second." She then started playing around with some of the scary machines next to the chair while I waited patiently for the fun to begin.

Suddenly Doctor Jaws appeared. "Hello, Jim. It's been a while, hasn't it? I hear you've got a toothache. "Let's see what the problem is," he said. "Open wide." I opened my mouth and felt like a small child as he said, "Oh dear. I see someone hasn't been looking after their teeth properly." I tried to explain that I brush three times a day with special **toothpaste** and an electric toothbrush, **floss** every evening, use **mouthwash** regularly, and hardly ever eat sugary snacks. But this was not easy to do, as he had two enormous rubber fingers in my mouth and was inspecting my teeth with some worryingly sharp metal tools.

"I'm afraid you've got another **cavity,** Jim." Doctor Jaws told me. "The good news is that I have time to give you a **filling** today." Before I could say anything, I saw Mary pass him a long needle, which he quickly plunged into my gum. After a few seconds, I couldn't feel anything. My mouth was completely **numb**. Doctor Jaws then turned on his noisy **drill** and got to work on my mouth. It wasn't painful, but it certainly wasn't comfortable. Finally, the drilling stopped, and Mary started to clean my teeth. At least that part was quieter than the drilling. When it was all over, she gave me a cup of water and told me to **spit** into the small tray beside the chair.

A few minutes later, I was paying the **receptionist**, preparing to make my escape, and planning not to come back for at least another year. Just when I thought I was safe, Doctor Jaws appeared in the doorway and said, "By the way, Jim, I noticed your teeth are a bit crooked. I think you need **braces**. Come back and see me next week." My mouth was still too numb for me to reply, so I simply nodded my head and let the receptionist make another appointment for me.

B. Answer the questions about the text in your own words.

1. Why was Jim visiting the dentist? .....
2. How did he feel while he was waiting? .....
3. What are two things Jim does to look after his teeth? .....
4. Why couldn't he tell Dr Jaws this? .....
5. Why did Jim need a filling? .....
6. What machine did Dr Jaws use to fill the cavity? .....
7. What did Mary tell him to do after giving him water? .....
8. Why did Dr Jaws say Jim needed braces? .....

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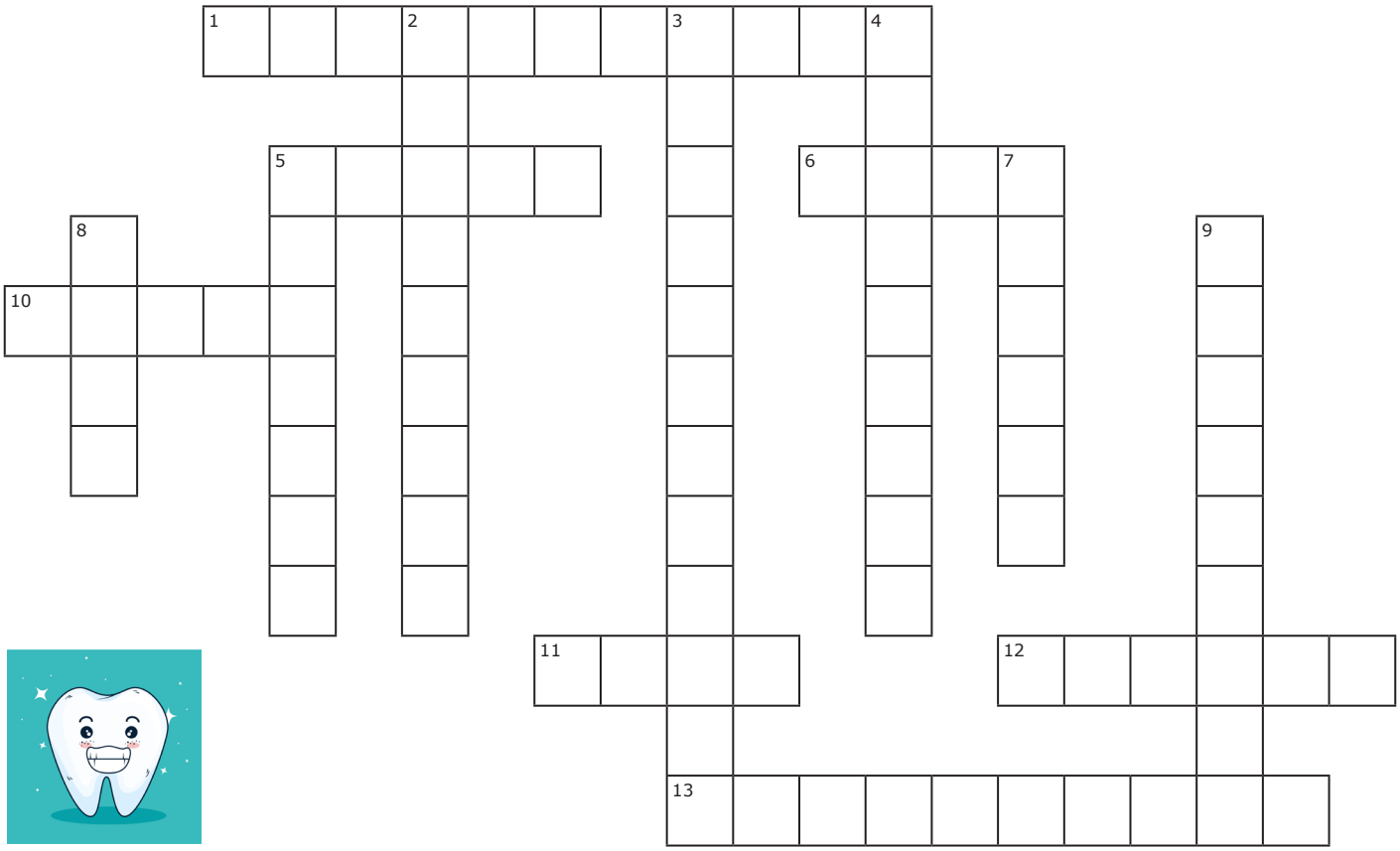
C. Read the clues and complete the crossword using the dentist vocabulary in bold from the text.



Clues across

1. The area where you wait for the dentist.
5. To clean between your teeth with string.
6. Without feeling.
10. A machine that makes holes.
11. To eject water from your mouth.
12. An empty space in your teeth.
13. You put this on your toothbrush.

Clues down

2. Pain in a tooth.
3. A person who arranges appointments.
4. A liquid you use to clean your mouth.
5. You need one of these if you have a cavity.
7. Metal wires used to straighten teeth.
8. A picture of your teeth or bones.
9. The person who helps the dentist.

D. Fill in the gaps or circle the answers to make the sentences true for you.

1. I visit the dentist ..... times a year.
2. I have had ..... filling(s).
3. I *have* / *haven't* worn braces.
4. I brush my teeth ..... times a day.
5. I *often* / *rarely* floss.
6. *I hate* / *don't mind* visiting the dentist.

E. Compare your answers with a partner and discuss the similarities and differences.

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