



Structure of Teeth

External Structure of a Tooth

A tooth consists of two main external parts:

Crown

- The visible part of the tooth above the gums.
- Covered with enamel, the hardest substance in the human body.
- Plays a key role in chewing and biting food.

Root

- The part of the tooth embedded in the jawbone.
- Anchors the tooth in its bony socket, ensuring stability.
- Normally not visible unless affected by disease or injury.

Internal Structure of a Tooth

Teeth are composed of three primary layers:

Enamel

- The hard, outermost protective layer of the crown.
- Protects the underlying layers from wear and decay.
- Composed mostly of minerals like calcium and phosphate.

Dentine

- Located beneath the enamel, forming the bulk of the tooth.
- A slightly softer but still strong tissue that supports the enamel.
- Can become sensitive if the enamel is worn down.

Pulp

- The soft inner tissue of the tooth containing blood vessels and nerves.
- Extends from the crown down to the root.
- Responsible for nourishing the tooth and detecting temperature and pain.



Cementum

- A bone-like tissue covering the root.
- Not as hard as enamel but plays a crucial role in anchoring the tooth to the jawbone.

Tooth Structure Analogy: Apple vs. Tooth

Just like an apple has an outer skin and inner flesh to protect the seeds, a tooth has enamel and dentine to protect the pulp.

If the outer skin (enamel) is damaged, the inner part becomes exposed and more vulnerable.

Types of Teeth and Their Functions

Teeth are classified into four types based on their shape and function:

- **Incisors** – Sharp-edged front teeth used for cutting food.
 - **Canines** – Pointed teeth that help in tearing food.
 - **Premolars** – Broad, flat teeth used for grinding and crushing food.
 - **Molars** – Larger, stronger teeth at the back of the mouth, designed for chewing and grinding food thoroughly.
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