

Visiting the dentist...



Dental care is provided free to all school children through the School Dental Service.

Your child's school will give you more information. Adults have to pay for the full cost of dental treatment at a private dentist. Prices vary from dentist to dentist, and from one region to another, so check before you go, or ask friends how much their dentist charges. Look up local dental clinics in the Yellow Pages and find out what treatment costs. If you are on a benefit you might be eligible for free emergency dental treatment. If you live in Dunedin, the University of Otago's Dental School provides treatment, with a discount for holders of community services cards .

Expect to pay the following amounts for **basic** treatment with a private dentist.

Check up with x-rays	\$50 - \$90
Check up with Scale/Polish	\$50 - \$90
White-filling (molar)	\$80 - \$140
Crown	\$800 - \$1,000

(Source: *Emigrate New Zealand*, www.emigratenz.org)

Fill in the gaps using the words below

Adults have to pay for _____ treatment in New Zealand. If you are at school, treatment is _____ .

Ask other people how much their dentist _____ for treatment. Some dentists charge extra for _____ or a scale and polish, so make sure you know what is included in the cost.

Emergency _____ is often free if you are on a benefit, but you need to _____ with a dentist first.

If you have _____ , the first step is to call a dentist and make an appointment for an _____ or check- up.

toothache

check

charges

treatment

dental

x – rays

examination

free

Visiting the dentist — the story.

Martin is brushing his teeth. He has toothache.



He makes an appointment to visit the dentist and writes the date and time in his diary.

When he arrives in the waiting room, the dental receptionist asks Martin to fill in a form.

Martin lies down in the dentist's chair and the dentist examines his teeth.

Martin rinses his mouth after the examination.

He spits into the basin beside the chair.

The dentist takes an X-ray of Martin's teeth. He asks Martin to bite down on the X-ray film.

After the examination, the dentist talks to Martin about what he can see on the X-ray, and the treatment Martin needs.

Using the picture story — activity ideas.

Not necessarily in order of priority!

- Model the language by telling the story.
- Cut up the pictures. Ask your learner to put them in order.
- Cut up the story (text) and ask your learner to put it in order.
- Ask your learner to put the pictures in order **and** tell the story. Transcribe and write up your learner's story.
- Cut up story (text) into strips and reorder. (Use storyline provided, or learner's own.) Match to the pictures and read aloud.
- Copy and white out key words, and ask your learner to fill in the gaps.
- Talk about each picture. e.g. — What's he doing? What's happening in this picture? What's this? What's that? Use detail for discussion.
- Teach verbs: e.g. brush, phone, examine, rinse, gargle, spit, bite down, listen, talk, tell, discuss.
- Teach key words: e.g. toothpaste, brush, toothache, appointment, waiting room, dentist, dentist's chair, examination.
- Practise writing notes in diary or calendar using short forms e.g. *Dentist 9.15; Coffee with 10.30; Meet the teacher 3pm*

NB Use '**Realia**' — real objects — to explain or demonstrate new words. In this situation you could bring along a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash (or show off your crowns, bridge, fillings, plate etc!?)

Making an appointment

Use the dialogue on the next page to practise making an appointment at the dentist.

- Take turns to be the receptionist and Martin.
- Change the details — be yourselves.
- Cut up the dialogue and put it in the right order.



Martin has toothache, so he phones the dentist to make an appointment.

Receptionist: Good Morning, Smile Dental Clinic, Maria speaking.

Martin: Hello. I'd like to make an appointment please. I've got terrible toothache. Have you got anything today?

Receptionist: Oh dear. Let me see what we've got. Mmm...no we're fully booked today, sorry. We can fit you in tomorrow.

Martin: That would be fine. The sooner the better.

Receptionist: We've got one at 9.15 tomorrow morning, would that suit?

Martin: Yes, thanks.

Receptionist: Just give me your name and phone number. You can give me the rest of your details tomorrow.

Martin: My name's Martin Best, and my number's 4593 2536.

Receptionist: OK Martin, we'll see you tomorrow. Thanks for calling.