



**Topic:** Dentist

**Level:** Intermediate

**Grammar Focus:** Nouns



**Discussion:**

**A.** Look at the picture. What do you see? These words will help you.

dentist patient chair face mask light drill instruments glove cabinet bib

**B.** Read and discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think the dentist is about to do?
2. How do you think the woman is feeling?
3. Why is the dentist wearing a face mask?
4. What other people are involved in a dental practice?



**C.** General chat about dentists.

How often should we see a dentist? What is the training to become a dentist? How important is the work they do? Would you like to be a dentist?

**D.** Word Play.

1. Nouns are naming words. The word 'dentist' is a noun. A dentist looks after people's teeth. Match up the following specialist with the correct body part.

audiologist	eyes
optometrist	finger nails
podiatrist	ears
manicurist	feet



**Story:**

**A.** Read the following story. Take your time. Pause at the end of each sentence when you meet a full stop.

**Appointment with the Dentist**

“Please hurry up and get ready,” yelled Mark’s mother. “It will take us ten minutes to drive to the dentist.”

Mark groaned inwardly as he buttoned his shirt and combed his hair. He had already spent a long time in the bathroom cleaning his teeth with his toothbrush and with dental floss. When he had finished he had spent a further minute inspecting the results. His teeth were white and even but he was still afraid of a visit to the dentist. He hoped that there would be no drilling and no fillings. He did not like the sound of the drill in his mouth.

The dentist was busy with a patient when Mark and his mother arrived at the surgery. They had to sit and wait and read magazines. Mark felt nervous. When his turn came he sat in the chair and kept his fingers crossed for good luck while the dentist carefully examined his teeth.

“Well done Mark,” praised the dentist. “You are looking after your teeth well. I will take an x-ray and I will not have to see you again for another year.”

On the way home Mark’s mother stopped at a book shop and Mark was able to choose a book for himself. “This is a reward for looking after your teeth so well. I am very pleased with you,” she said and smiled her approval.



**B.** Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. There was a ten minute drive to the dentist.
2. Mark wore a shirt with no buttons.
3. Mark had to wait for the dentist.
4. The dentist used the drill on Mark.
5. Mark and his mother went straight home.

**C.** Ultimate Challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 Why did Mark not like going to the dentist?

- a. He had to clean his teeth well beforehand.
- b. He had to sit and wait for his turn.
- c. He did not like the sound of the drill.
- d. He thought he would need a filling.

Q.2 Why did Mark keep his fingers crossed?

- a. It made him feel less nervous.
- b. It made the time pass quickly.
- c. He always did this when he felt tense.
- d. To make the examination go well for him.



Q.3 Which word in the story has a similar meaning to 'nervous'?

- a. busy
- b. afraid
- c. pleased
- d. inwardly

Q.4 What does 'appointment' mean?

- a. A visit.
- b. To turn up at a fixed time and place.
- c. To wait for attention.
- d. An unpleasant meeting.

Q.5 What was Mark's reward for looking after his teeth?

- a. His mother bought him a book.
- b. It would be a year before he visited the dentist again.
- c. He was praised by the dentist.
- d. He was given an x-ray.

Exploring other ideas:

- How do we look after our teeth? What happens if we do not care for them?
- The training to become a dentist.
- How does the food we eat affect our dental health?