It’s like pulling teeth!  Keywords: teeth + tooth

A Complete the sentences with the words from the box below. You may need to check they fit in the correct grammatical form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>brush/clean</th>
<th>tooth fairy</th>
<th>wisdom</th>
<th>tooth and nail</th>
<th>pull out/take out/extract</th>
<th>it’s like pulling</th>
<th>kick in the</th>
<th>chip</th>
<th>lie through</th>
<th>front</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Eg “You should …brush/clean… your teeth before you see Emmanuelle.”

1. “I’m dreading going to the dentist tomorrow. I’m having my ........................................ teeth ........................................... It’s really going to hurt!”
2. “When I was a boy I got 50 cents from the ................................................ whenever I lost a tooth.”
3. “Jack said he was at home on Saturday night but he’s ................................................ his teeth – I saw him with Marta at Roxy!”
4. “I’m starving but all I have on my mind is dessert. I’ve got such a ................................................ tooth!”
5. “My computer is so slow, it took me an hour just to send one email. Seriously, ........................................ teeth!”
6. “Julia was really determined to get that job. She fought ................................................ to get it.”
7. “Can’t believe I ................................................ my ................................................ tooth on a muesli bar. Another visit to the dentist.”
8. “I didn’t get the promotion, after all the work I did for the company. A real ................................................ teeth , that is.”

B Now write the word(s) or phrase in the gaps below to match their meaning:

Eg the teeth at the very back of your mouth that do not grow until you are an adult ➔ …wisdom teeth:

a) a fixed expression for when you feel something is very difficult to do or you find it frustrating
.......................................................... ..........................................................

b) to accidentally break off a small part of something, such as a tooth
..........................................................

c) to try very hard to do something or achieve something
..........................................................
It’s like pulling teeth!

Keywords: teeth + tooth

d) to say something which is totally untrue

........................................................................................................................................

e) the teeth at the front of your mouth (opposite of back teeth)

........................................................................................................................................

f) to remove (eg a tooth)

........................................................................................................................................

g) to get bad news or a big disappointment

........................................................................................................................................

h) to like things which have a lot of sugar, such as chocolate, biscuits, and cakes

........................................................................................................................................

i) a special character who visits a child in the middle of the night and leaves them some money in exchange for a tooth which has fallen out

........................................................................................................................................

C Give yourself 2 minutes. How many of these can you unjumble?

eg

iwsmod ootht ➔ ...........wisdom tooth...........

ihcep hooht

iel uohgthr ryuo eehht

orfnt thtoo

ifhtg ooth dna ilna

aveh a stewe othto

het hotot yrfaï

suhbr uruy ehtte

eatk tuo a ohtto

........................................................................................................................................

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It’s like pulling teeth!  Keywords: teeth + tooth

Teacher’s notes

A

| brush/clean | tooth fairy | wisdom | tooth and nail |
| sweet       | pull out/take out/extract | it’s like pulling |
| kick in the | chip       | lie through | front |

Eg “You should …brush/clean… your teeth before you see Emmanuelle.”

1. “I’m dreading going to the dentist tomorrow. I’m having my …wisdom… teeth …pulled out/taken out/extracted… It’s really going to hurt!”
2. “When I was a boy I got 50 cents from the …tooth fairy… whenever I lost a tooth.”
3. “Jack said he was at home on Saturday night but he’s …lying through… his teeth – I saw him with Marta at Roxy!”
4. “I’m starving but all I have on my mind is dessert. I’ve got such a …sweet… tooth!”
5. “My computer is so slow, it took me an hour just to send one email. Seriously, …it’s like pulling… teeth!”
6. “Julia was really determined to get that job. She fought …tooth and nail… to get it.”
7. “Can’t believe I …chipped… my …front… tooth on a muesli bar. Another visit to the dentist.”
8. “I didn’t get the promotion, and after all the work I did for the company. A real …kick in the… teeth, that is.”

B Now write the word(s) or phrase in the gaps below to match their meaning:

Eg the teeth at the very back of your mouth that do not grow until you are an adult …wisdom teeth…

a) a fixed expression for when you feel something is very difficult to do or you find it frustrating
   …it’s like pulling teeth…

b) to accidentally break off a small part of something, such as a tooth
   …to chip…/ a chipped tooth…

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It’s like pulling teeth! Keywords: teeth + tooth

c) to try very hard to do something or achieve something
......to fight tooth and nail...
d) to say something which is totally untrue
......to lie through your teeth...
e) the teeth at the front of your mouth (opposite of back teeth)
......front teeth.../ a front tooth...
f) to remove (eg a tooth)
......to pull out/take out/extract...
g) to get bad news or a big disappointment
    a kick in the teeth (nb this can also be used to threaten someone eg “I
    want to kick him in the teeth.”)
h) to like things which have a lot of sugar, such as chocolate, biscuits, and
    cakes
......to have a sweet tooth...
i) a special character who visits a child in the middle of the night and leaves
    some money in exchange for a tooth which has fallen out
......the tooth fairy...

C Give yourself 2 minutes. How many of these can you unjumble?

eg
iwsmod ootht → wisdom tooth
a ickk ni eth eetht → a kick in the teeth
ihcpep hooht → chipped tooth
iel uohgthr ryuo eehtt → lie through your teeth
orfnt thtoo → front tooth
ifhtg ototh dna ilna → fight tooth and nail
aveh a stewe othto → have a sweet tooth
het hotot yrfai → the tooth fairy
suhr uruy ehtte → brush your teeth
eatk tuo a ohtto → take out a tooth