

# 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:

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 ..... 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  
.....

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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*.....

**ihcpep hooht** .....

**iel uohgthr ryuo eehtt** .....

**orfnt thtoo** .....

**ifhtg ooth dna ilna** .....

**aveh a stewe othto** .....

**het hotot yrfai** .....

**suhbr uory ehtte** .....

**eatk tuo a ohtto** .....



Contributed by David Sweetnam

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## Teacher's notes

### A

<del>brush/clean-</del>	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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- 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

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

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