

HEAD AND ORAL ANATOMICAL STRUCTURE

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Annotation: Head, in human anatomy, the upper portion of the body, consisting of the skull with its coverings and contents, including the lower jaw. It is attached to the spinal column by way of the first cervical vertebra, the atlas, and connected with the trunk of the body by the muscles, blood vessels, and nerves that constitute the neck. The term also is used to describe the anterior or fore part of animals other than humans. Jaw, either of a pair of bones that form the framework of the mouth of vertebrate animals, usually containing teeth and including a movable lower jaw (mandible) and fixed upper jaw (maxilla). Jaws function by moving in opposition to each other and are used for biting, chewing, and the handling of food.

Key words: Head, mouth, lips, tooth, blood muscle.

The mandible consists of a horizontal arch, which holds the teeth and contains blood vessels and nerves. Two vertical portions (rami) form movable hinge joints on either side of the head, articulating with the glenoid cavity of the temporal bone of the skull. The rami also provide attachment for muscles important in chewing. The centre front of the arch is thickened and buttressed to form a chin, a development unique to man and some of his recent ancestors; the great apes and other animals lack chins.

The upper jaw is firmly attached to the nasal bones at the bridge of the nose; to the frontal, lacrimal, ethmoid, and zygomatic bones within the eye socket; to the palatine and sphenoid bones in the roof of the mouth; and at the side, by an extension, to the zygomatic bone (cheekbone), with which it forms the anterior portion of the zygomatic arch. The arched lower part of the maxilla contains the upper teeth. Inside the body of the bone is the large maxillary sinus. In the human fetus and infant both the upper and lower jaws have two halves; these fuse at the midline a few months after birth.

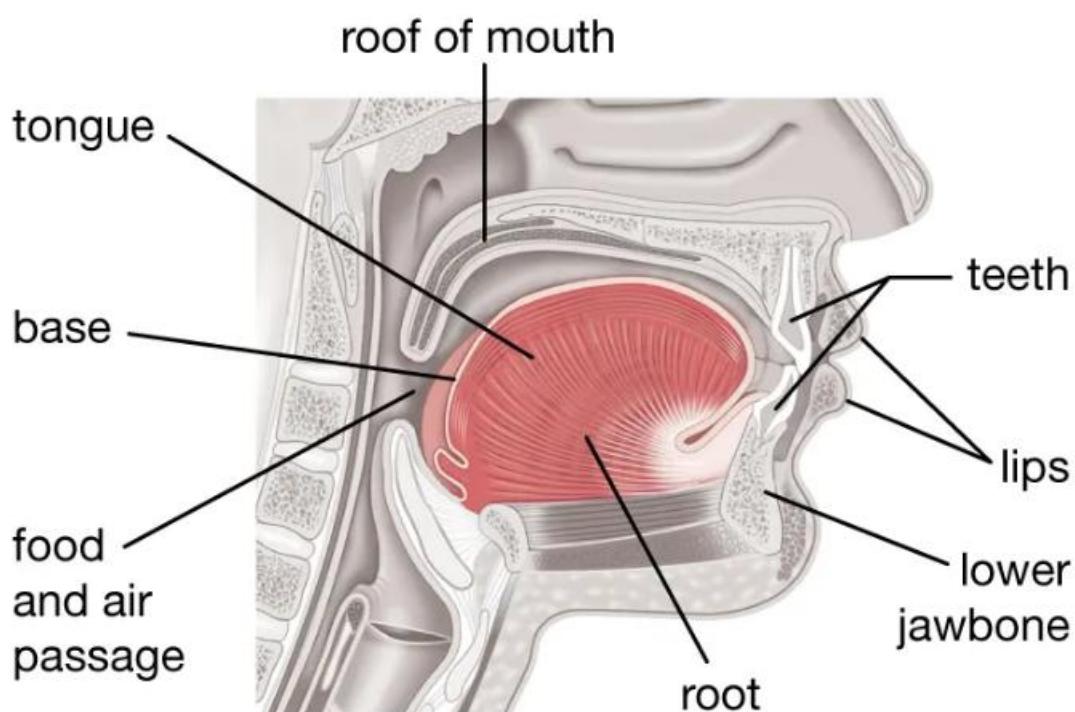
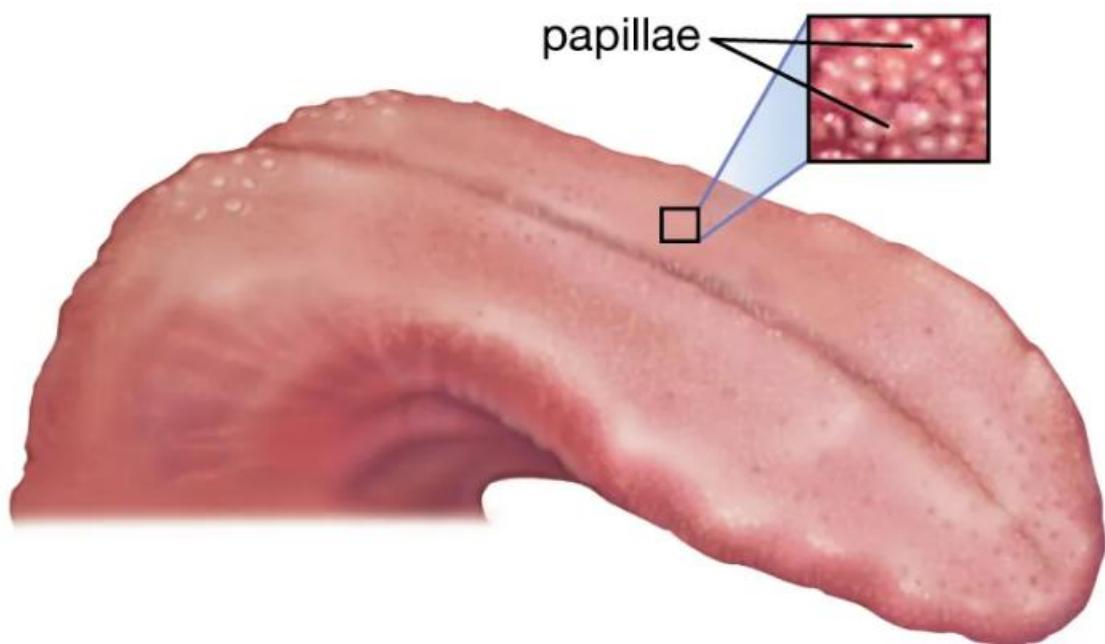
Among the invertebrates, arthropods often have modified limbs that function in jaw action. In the subphylum Chelicerata (e.g., pycnogonids, arachnids), the pincers (chelicerae) may be used as jaws and are sometimes aided by pedipalps, which are also modified appendages. In the subphylum Mandibulata (crustaceans, insects, and myriapods), the jaw limbs are the mandibles and, to some extent, the maxillae. Such limbs may be modified for other purposes, especially in insects. Horseshoe crabs (and perhaps the extinct trilobites) can chew food with toothed projections (gnathobases) at the bases of the walking legs, but these are not considered true jaws.

Mouth, in human anatomy, orifice through which food and air enter the body. The mouth opens to the outside at the lips and empties into the throat at the rear; its boundaries are defined by the lips, cheeks, hard and soft palates, and glottis. It is divided into two sections: the vestibule, the area between the cheeks and the teeth, and the oral cavity proper. The latter section is mostly filled by the tongue, a large muscle firmly anchored to the floor of the mouth by the frenulum linguae. In addition to its primary role in the intake and initial digestion of food, the mouth and its structures are essential in humans to the formation of speech.

The chief structures of the mouth are the teeth, which tear and grind ingested food into small pieces that are suitable for digestion; the tongue, which positions and mixes food and also carries sensory

receptors for taste; and the palate, which separates the mouth from the nasal cavity, allowing separate passages for air and for food. All these structures, along with the lips, are involved in the formation of speech sounds by modifying the passage of air through the mouth.

The human tongue



The oral cavity and vestibule are entirely lined by mucous membranes containing numerous small glands that, along with the three pairs of salivary glands, bathe the mouth in fluid, keeping it moist and clear of food and other debris. Specialized membranes form both the gums (gingivae), which surround and support the teeth, and the surface of the tongue, on which the membrane is rougher in texture, containing many small papillae that hold the taste buds. The mouth's moist environment and the enzymes within its secretions help to soften food, facilitating swallowing and beginning the process of digestion. *See also* digestion.

Lips, soft pliable anatomical structures that form the mouth margin of most vertebrates, composed of a surface epidermis (skin), connective tissue, and (in typical mammals) a muscle layer.

In man the outer skin contains hair, sweat glands, and sebaceous (oil) glands. The edges of the lips are covered with reddish skin, sometimes called the vermillion border, and abundantly provided with sensitive nerve endings. The reddish skin is a transition layer between the outer, hair-bearing tissue and the inner mucous membrane. The interior surface of the lips is lined with a moist mucous membrane. In newborn infants the inner surface is much thicker, with sebaceous glands and minute projections called papillae. These structural adaptations seem to aid the process of sucking. Most of the substance of each lip is supplied by the orbicularis oris muscle, which encircles the opening. This muscle and others that radiate out into the cheeks make possible the lips' many variations in shape and expression.

Diseases that particularly affect the lips include herpes simplex (fever blisters, or cold sores) and leukoplakia (white patches, which may be precancerous). In elderly men, ulcers on the vermillion border of the lower lip are frequently cancerous. The borders also may become cracked and inflamed from excessive drying by the weather, chemical irritants, inadequate moistening because of infection, or in reaction to antibiotics.

Tooth, any of the hard, resistant structures occurring on the jaws and in or around the mouth and pharynx areas of vertebrates. Teeth are used for catching and masticating food, for defense, and for other specialized purposes.

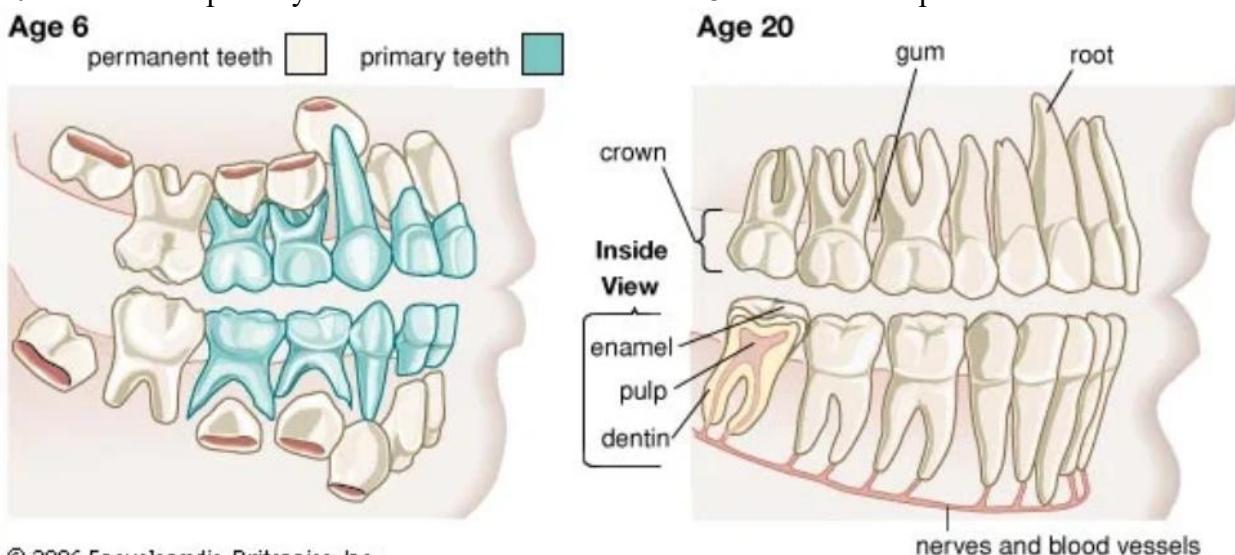
The teeth of vertebrates represent the modified descendants of bony dermal (skin) plates that armoured ancestral fishes. A tooth consists of a crown and one or more roots. The crown is the functional part that is visible above the gum. The root is the unseen portion that supports and fastens the tooth in the jawbone. The root is attached to the tooth-bearing bone—the alveolar processes—of the jaws by a fibrous ligament called the periodontal ligament or membrane. The “neck” of the root is embraced by the fleshy gum tissue (a specialized area of connective tissue covered with mucous membrane that lines the mouth cavity). The shape of the crown and root vary among different teeth and among different species of animals.

The structure of teeth

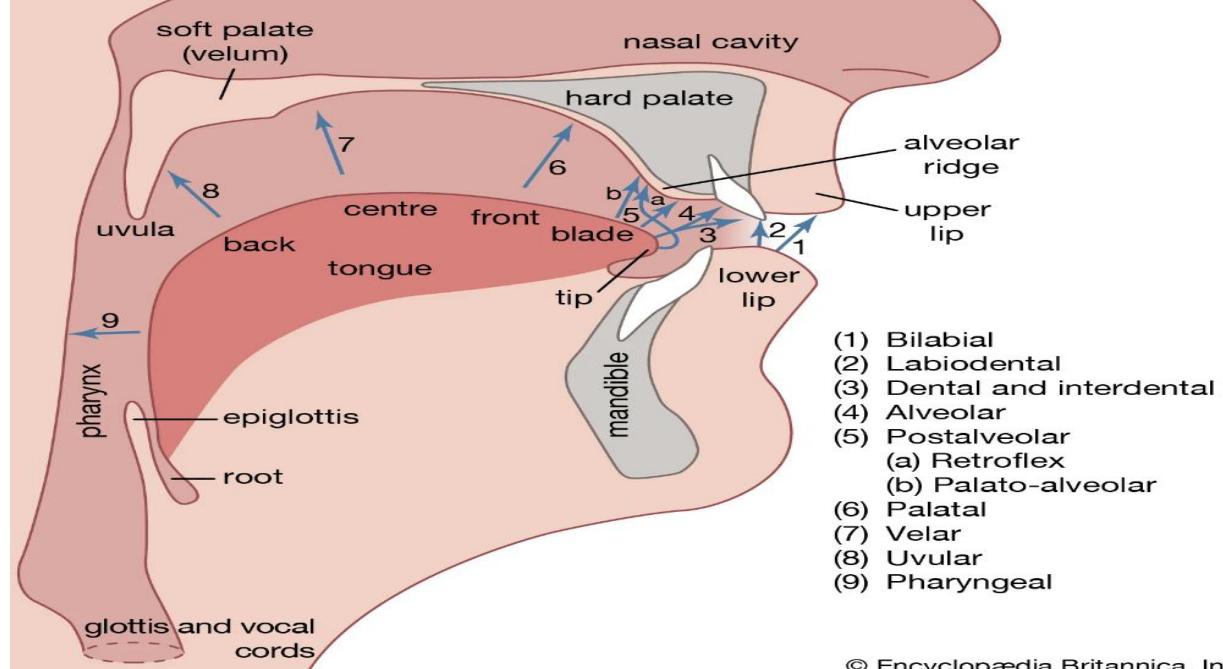
All true teeth have the same general structure and consist of three layers. In mammals an outer layer of enamel, which is wholly inorganic and is the hardest tissue in the body, covers part or all of the crown of the tooth. The middle layer of the tooth is composed of dentine, which is less hard than enamel and similar in composition to bone. The dentine forms the main bulk, or core, of each tooth and extends almost the entire length of the tooth, being covered by enamel on the crown portion and by cementum on the roots. Dentine is nourished by the pulp, which is the innermost portion of the tooth. The pulp consists of cells, tiny blood vessels, and a nerve and occupies a cavity located in the centre of the tooth. The pulp canal is long and narrow with an enlargement, called the pulp chamber, in the coronal end. The pulp canal extends almost the whole length of the tooth and communicates with the body's general nutritional and nervous systems through the apical foramina (holes) at the

end of the roots. Below the gumline extends the root of the tooth, which is covered at least partially by cementum. The latter is similar in structure to bone but is less hard than dentine. Cementum affords a thin covering to the root and serves as a medium for attachment of the fibres that hold the tooth to the surrounding tissue (periodontal membrane). Gum is attached to the adjacent alveolar bone and to the cementum of each tooth by fibre bundles.

Like most other mammals, humans have two successive sets of teeth during life. The first set of teeth are called primary, or deciduous, ones, and the second set are called permanent ones. Humans have 20 primary and 32 permanent teeth.



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Premolars and molars have a series of elevations, or cusps, that are used for breaking up particles of food. Behind each canine are two premolars, which can both cut and grind food. Each premolar has two cusps (hence the name bicuspid). The molars, by contrast, are used exclusively for crushing and grinding. They are the teeth farthest back in the mouth. Each molar typically has four or five cusps. The third molar in humans tends to be variable in size, number of roots, cusp pattern, and eruption.

The number of roots for each type of tooth varies from one for incisors, canines, and premolars to two or three for molars.

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