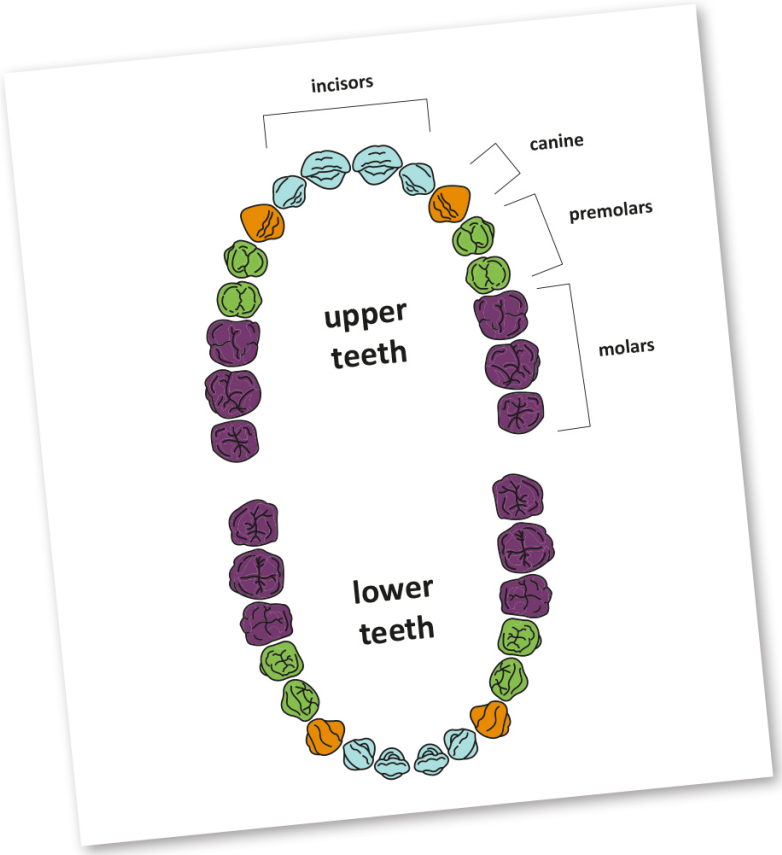
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Information

Types of teeth

Not all teeth look the same. There are four different types of permanent teeth in an adult's mouth.

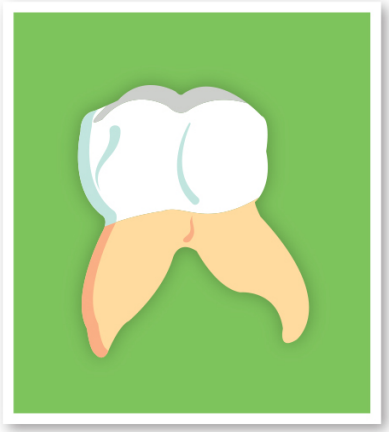




incisor



canine



premolar



molar

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Incisors



Where are they found?

Incisors are found at the front of the mouth. There are eight incisors in an adult's mouth – four on the top and four on the bottom.

What do they look like?

Incisors are shaped like tiny chisels or shovels with flat, thin edges that are sharp. They have one root.

What is their function?

Incisors are great for **biting**, **cutting** and **chopping** food.



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Canines



Where are they found?

The pointed teeth next to the incisors are called canines. There are four in total – two on the top and two on the bottom.

What do they look like?

Canines have one pointed edge that is sharp. They are anchored to the gum and have the longest root.

What is their function?

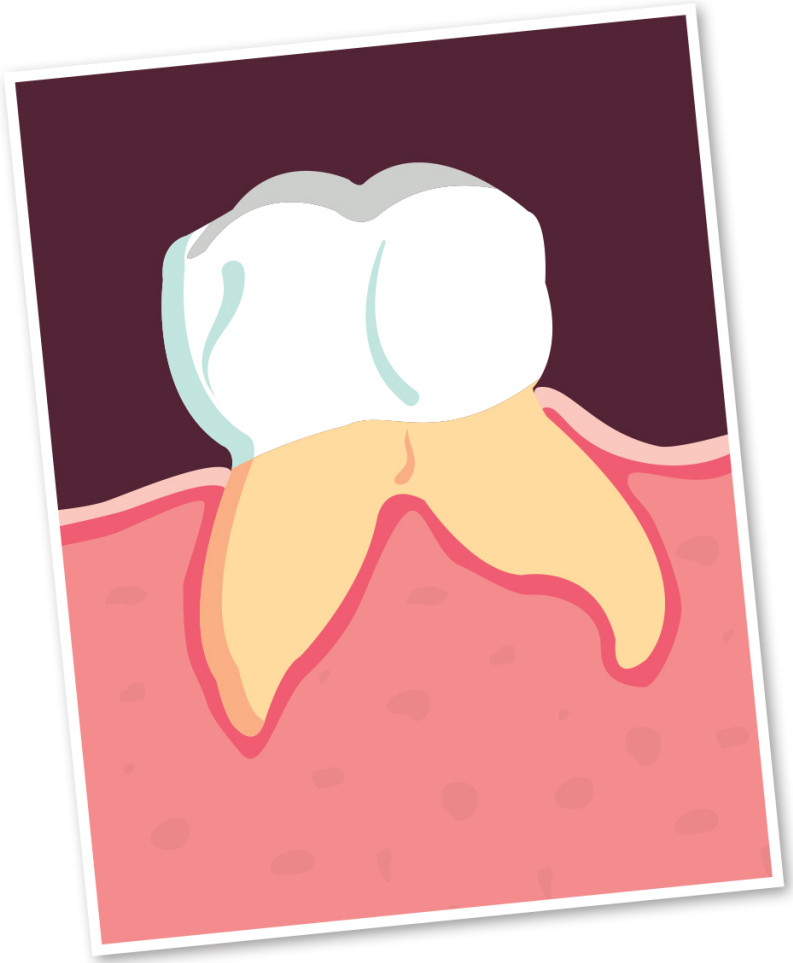
Canines help us to **hold**, **grasp**, **tear** and **rip** food.



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Premolars



Where are they found?

Premolars are found next to the canine teeth. There are eight premolars – four on the top and four on the bottom. Young children do not have premolars; they have first molars.

What do they look like?

Premolars have a large surface and are bigger and stronger than incisors or canines. They have ridges on them.

What is their function?

Premolars are for **holding**, **chewing**, **crushing** and **grinding** food.



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Molars



Where are they found?

Molars are at the back of the mouth, behind the premolars. Adults have 12 molars, including four wisdom teeth.

What do they look like?

Molars are the toughest teeth. They are wider and stronger than premolars and have even more ridges.

What is their function?

Molars work closely with the tongue. The tongue sweeps chewed-up food to the back of the mouth where the molars **grind** it until it is mashed up and ready to swallow.



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