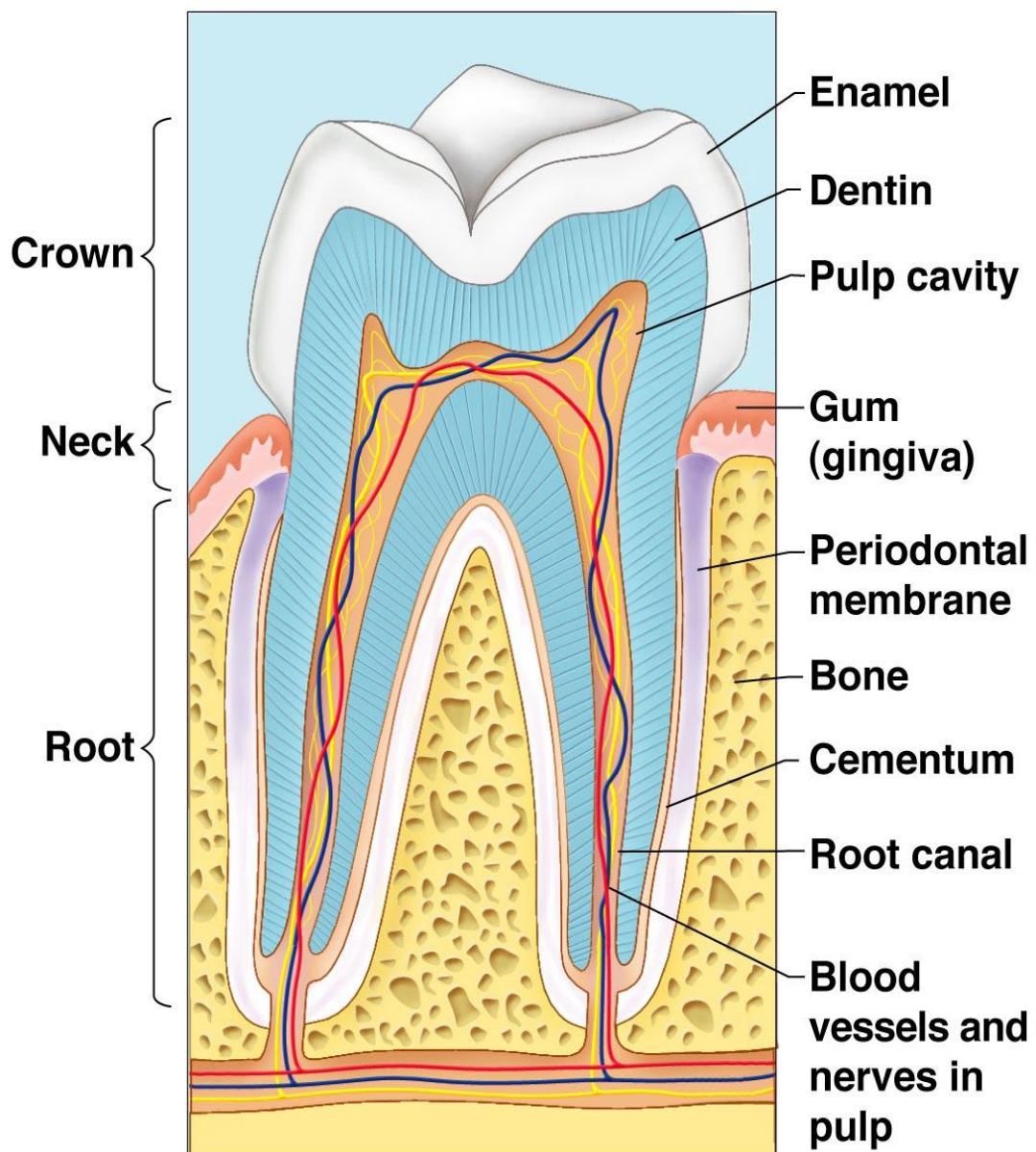


# TEETH

**Mastication**, or chewing, is performed by the teeth.



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## Types of teeth

There are four types of teeth:

**Incisors** – blade-like teeth for clipping and cutting.

**Cuspids (Canines)** – conical with a pointed tip for tearing and slashing.

**Bicuspid (Premolars)** – have one or two roots and flattened crowns with prominent ridges for crushing, mashing and grinding.

**Molars** – have three or more roots and broader crowns with ridges for crushing and grinding.

## Tooth Anatomy

The bulk of the tooth is formed by a bony substance called **dentin**. Cytoplasmic processes extend into the dentin from cells in the **pulp cavity**. Highly vascular connective tissue within the pulp cavity receives blood and sensation through blood vessels and nerves that enter the root at the **apical foramen** and travel through the **root canal**.

The tooth is anchored to the bony socket of the alveolar process by collagen fibers of the **periodontal ligament**. A bony substance called **cementum** covers the dentin of the root and the fibers of the periodontal ligament are anchored in cementum.

The **crown** is the visible portion of the tooth above the gingivae. The dentin of the crown is covered by **enamel**, the hardest material in the body. The **neck** is the boundary between the crown and the root.