

October! National Dental Hygiene Month!



A Word Roots Lesson on **dent-** (tooth)

Dental hygiene refers to the practice of keeping the mouth, teeth, and gums clean and healthy to prevent disease. **Dental** hygiene and oral health are often taken for granted but are essential parts of our everyday lives. October is dedicated to promoting healthy mouths all across the country and celebrating the hard work your **dental** hygienist does to keep your pearly whites clean and healthy. The word **dental** comes from the Latin word root **dent-** which mean **'teeth.'**

Below are some English words that contain the word root **dent-**. Can you match them with the picture? What does each word have to do with the concept of **tooth** or **teeth**?

denture, trident, dentifrice, dentist



Word Root Challenge:

The Greek word root for "tooth" is similar to Latin – **odont**, and the word root "ortho" means "straight." What do you think an **orthodontist** does?

Want to learn more about a Word Roots approach to Building Vocabulary? See *Building Vocabulary with Greek and Latin Roots*. www.timrasinski.com > Products

Questions? Contact us at trasinsk@kent.edu

