braces
a set of wires worn on teeth to push them into the correct position
"I noticed gaps between my son's teeth and I think he might need braces."

bridge
a set of one or more false teeth
"A prosthetic replacement of one or more missing teeth is called a bridge."

cavity
a hole in a tooth caused by decay
"I went to the dentist for a check-up and he noticed two cavities that have to be filled."

crown
a type of tooth restoration that covers all or most of the natural tooth
"A crown is often a recommended solution if a tooth has been broken or is at high risk of breaking due to large fillings or cracks."

decay
a bacterial infection which causes demineralization and destruction of the hard tissues of the teeth
"Brush your teeth after each meal to prevent tooth decay."

dental hygienist
a member of the dental team whose job involves cleaning people’s teeth and giving advice on how to care for them
"Ask your hygienist to show you the best way to brush and floss your teeth."

dental surgeon
a medical professional that specializes in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases of the oral cavity
"The profession of a dentist can also be referred to as 'a dental surgeon', but this name is rarely used."

dental technician
a member of the dental team who constructs custom made crowns, bridges and implants
"To construct the crown, the dental technician will need a dental model."

dentures
a removable replacement for missing teeth
"It is suggested to use dentures if there are insufficient teeth to support a bridge."
enamel
the hard white outer layer of teeth
"Enamel is the hardest substance in the human body and contains the highest percentage of minerals."

endodontist
a dental professional who specializes in the treatment of root canals
"The dentist told me that the nerve had to be removed and the root would have to be filled, so I made an appointment with an endodontist."

extract
to remove a tooth
"The cavity was so large and decay so widespread that the tooth had to be extracted."

filling
a mass of metal or plastic used to replace a hole in a tooth
"I have to make an appointment with my dentist because one of my fillings has fallen out."

gingivitis
inflammation of the soft gum tissue and abnormal loss of bone that surrounds the teeth
"At an early stage, gingivitis is non-destructive, but in the absence of treatment it will progress to periodontitis, which is a destructive disease."

gums
the soft tissue inside the oral cavity in which teeth are fixed
"Improper oral hygiene may lead to gum disease."

implant
a small titanium fixture that serves as the replacement for the root portion of a missing natural tooth
"An implant is placed in the jaw bone and serves as an anchor for a replacement tooth."

jaw
the lower part of the face which includes the bottom teeth
"Disorders of the jaw joint can cause pain similar to toothache."

oral
connected with the mouth
"The interface between medicine and dentistry is called oral medicine."

orthodontist
a dentistry professional who straightens teeth
"Consult an orthodontist if your teeth are crooked or there are gaps between them."
**root canal**

a hollow thin space inside the root of a tooth that can become infected

"Treating the nerve of a tooth is referred to as root canal treatment."