

More British people fixing their own teeth

7th April, 2015



People in Britain can now repair their own teeth. They can buy special dental kits in supermarkets to fix fillings (called cavities in the USA) and repair caps and crowns. The kits

can cost as little as \$7. Many people are buying these kits because they cannot afford to go to the dentist. The cost of having a tooth filled at a dentist in England can cost up to \$70, which is ten times higher than the price of the dental kit. One of the biggest selling products is a kit called DenTek. Britons bought around 250,000 of these last year. Britain's Dental Health Foundation (DHF) said one in five people in the UK would do DIY dentistry on their own teeth or the teeth of family and friends. DIY dentistry includes actually pulling out a tooth.

Britain is famous for the quality of its free health service. However, this service does not include dental work. The fact that DIY dentistry is increasing so quickly in Britain shows that there is a lot of poverty and inequality in the country. The poorest people cannot afford to go to the dentist. A spokeswoman for a local community in Scotland said: "DIY dentistry is fairly common here. They sell a lot of those dental kits – you can buy them in [supermarkets]. And you've got people taking care of their whole family's teeth." The DHF said many people would rather spend their money on a haircut or a night out than on their teeth. She said different people place different importance on visiting the dentist.

Sources: *Daily Times* / *The Guardian* / *Inquisitr.com*

Writing

DIY dentistry kits are a great idea. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

repair / dental kits / fillings / afford / ten times higher / dentistry / pulling out a tooth / famous / quality / poverty / inequality / local community / haircut / night out / place

True / False

- The article talks about a dentistry kit available in the USA. T / F
- The dentistry kit costs just over \$10. T / F
- The article says people who hate the dentist are buying the kits. T / F
- A dental group says 20% of British people would do DIY dentistry. T / F
- Britain's free health service includes free dental treatment. T / F
- The article says the kits show there are many poor people in Britain. T / F
- The article says some people look after their family's teeth. T / F
- Some people prefer spending money on their hair than on their teeth. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. repair | a. purchased |
| 2. fillings | b. reasonably |
| 3. products | c. extracting |
| 4. bought | d. fast |
| 5. pulling out | e. looking after |
| 6. famous | f. items |
| 7. quickly | g. fix |
| 8. fairly | h. put |
| 9. taking care of | i. cavities |
| 10. place | j. well known |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of DIY dentistry?
- How do you feel about going to the dentist?
- What are your teeth like?
- Do you think the DIY dentistry kits work?
- How can poorer people get proper dental care?
- How do you look after your teeth?
- Would you buy one of the new DIY dental kits?
- Why are dentists so expensive?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The kits can cost | a. selling products |
| 2. they cannot afford to | b. community |
| 3. One of the biggest | c. out a tooth |
| 4. one in | d. free health service |
| 5. pulling | e. as little as \$7 |
| 6. famous for the quality of its | f. whole family's teeth |
| 7. dental | g. go to the dentist |
| 8. spokeswoman for a local | h. out |
| 9. taking care of their | i. five people |
| 10. a night | j. work |

Discussion – Student B

- How much poverty and inequality is there in your country?
- What happens to people's teeth if they cannot afford a dentist?
- Are you surprised that supermarkets can sell dentistry kits?
- How would you feel about treating other people's teeth?
- Would you spend money on a night out or a trip to the dentist?
- What do you think it's like to be a dentist?
- How important are dentists to you?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of the dental kit company?

Spelling

- fillings (called ecvaitis in the USA)
- they cannot afofrd to go to the dentist
- ten times ehihgr
- the biggest selling tcupsdro
- Britain's Dental Health notadFunio
- claatylu pulling out a tooth
- the ialqtyu of its free health service
- nnaeicrigs so quickly
- a lot of ovperty and inequality
- a local ioumtmcyn in Scotland
- people would ertarh spend their money
- different treoimncpa on visiting the dentist

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. i	3. f	4. a	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. b	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – The dentist's chair

You think the dentist's chair is the best thing about visiting the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the waiting room, the magazine rack or the staff.

Role B – The waiting room

You think the waiting room is the best thing about visiting the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the dentist's chair, the magazine rack or the staff.

Role C – The magazine rack

You think the magazine rack is the best thing about visiting the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the waiting room, the dentist's chair or the staff.

Role D – The staff

You think the staff is the best thing about visiting the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the waiting room, the magazine rack or the dentist's chair.

Speaking – Dentists

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about the dentist at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • the chair | • the sounds |
| • fillings | • the smells |
| • polishing | • the staff |
| • the waiting room | • the magazine rack |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.