

ROLE PLAY: GOING TO THE DENTIST

A2-B1 | Teens / Adults | Speaking + Functional Language | 35-45 minutes

1. USEFUL PHRASES

Patient

I have a toothache.
It hurts when I eat.
I'm nervous about dentists.
Could we take a short break?
Could you explain the options?
How much will it cost?
Could I have the instructions in writing?

Dentist / receptionist

Which tooth hurts?
How long has it been hurting?
Please open your mouth.
I'll explain each step.
We can pause if you need to.
Let's discuss the options.
Do you have any questions?

2. MODEL CONVERSATIONS

A. A TOOTHACHE

Patient: Hello. **I have a toothache.** It's been bothering me since yesterday.

Dentist: I'm sorry to hear that. **Which tooth hurts?**

Patient: The one at the back on the left. **It hurts when I eat.**

Dentist: Thank you. Does it hurt at other times too?

Patient: Sometimes. Also, **I'm nervous about dentists**, so I haven't slept very well.

Dentist: Thanks for telling me. **I'll explain each step, and we can pause if you need to.**

Patient: That would help. What will you do first?

Dentist: I'll look at the tooth and ask a few more questions. **Please open your mouth** when you're ready.

Patient: Okay. If I need a break, can I raise my hand?

Dentist: Yes. I'll stop so we can talk about what you need.

Patient: Thank you. I'd like to understand the problem before deciding on treatment.

Dentist: Of course. After the examination, **let's discuss the options** and any costs.

B. ASKING ABOUT THE NEXT STEP

Dentist: I've finished checking your teeth. There's one area I'd like to discuss with you.

Patient: All right. **Could you explain the options** in simple terms?

Dentist: Certainly. I'll show you the area first so you know what we're talking about.

Patient: Thank you. I sometimes find it hard to follow without seeing it.

Dentist: Here's the picture. We'll discuss the treatment choices and why I recommend them.

Patient: Would treatment happen today, or would I need another appointment?

Dentist: We can arrange a separate appointment so you have time to consider the plan.

Patient: That would suit me. **How much will it cost?**

Dentist: I'll give you a written estimate for the treatment we've discussed before you decide.

Patient: Good. **Could I have the instructions in writing** as well?

Dentist: Yes. I'll include the next steps and the clinic's contact details. **Do you have any questions?**

Patient: Just one: who should I contact if I think of something after I get home?

Dentist: Call the clinic using the number on your written plan. The receptionist can pass your question to the dental team.

Notice how the speakers give details, ask follow-up questions and respond to each other.

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3. ROLE-PLAY CARDS

Work in pairs. Read only your own role. Decide what to say; don't write a full script. Find a solution, then swap roles and change one detail.

ROLE PLAY 1: BOOKING A CHECK-UP

Student A - Patient

You want a routine check-up next week. You're free Tuesday morning or Thursday after four. Ask about appointment times, approximate length and how to let the clinic know you're nervous.

Student B - Receptionist

Offer Tuesday at ten or Thursday at four thirty. In this scenario, allow thirty minutes. Ask for contact details and note the person's concern so the dental team can discuss it with them. Confirm the chosen time.

ROLE PLAY 2: ASKING FOR AFTERCARE INFORMATION

Student A - Patient

You've just finished treatment and feel unsure about the aftercare explanation. Ask for written instructions and check who to contact with questions. Don't assume the same eating or drinking advice applies to every treatment.

Student B - Dental professional

Ask what is unclear and offer the clinic's written instructions for that person's treatment. Practise checking understanding and explaining how to contact the dental team. Don't invent doses, waiting times or treatment-specific aftercare rules.

ROLE PLAY 3: A DAMAGED TOOTH

Student A - Patient

A piece of a tooth broke while you were eating. Call the clinic, describe what happened and say when it occurred. Ask how the dental team can assess what kind of appointment you need.

Student B - Receptionist

Take the person's details and ask about the problem and when it happened. Explain that the dental team will assess the urgency and advise on the next step. Don't diagnose the problem or guarantee that waiting is safe.

After each role play: Say what you agreed and which phrase helped. Repeat with one new detail.

Teacher note: Prepare for 2-3 minutes and speak for 3-4 minutes. Encourage follow-up questions, not memorised scripts. Language practice, not dental advice. Treatment and aftercare must be checked with the dental team.