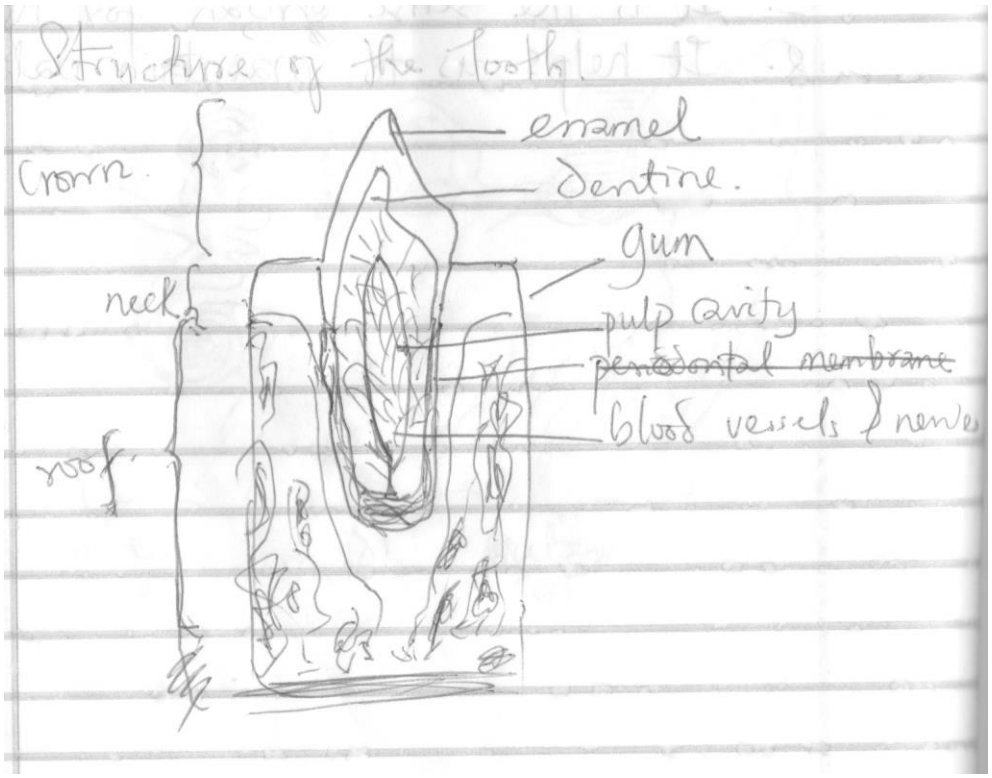
HLT – THE TOOTH

The teeth are useful for chewing most of the food we eat. We grow two sets of teeth. The first is the milk or temporary teeth. It is grown during childhood. These are 24 in number. They loosen and fall out. They are replaced by the permanent teeth in adulthood. The permanent teeth are usually 32 in number.

Structure of the Teeth



(a) The crown: the part of the tooth projecting above the gum
(b) The root: the part buried in the jaw-bone
(c) The neck: the space between the crown and the root
(d) The dentine: the tough centre of the tooth which surrounds and protects the pulp cavity
(e) The pulp cavity: contains blood vessels and nerves
(f) The enamel: a very hard substance which covers the crown of the tooth

Types of Tooth and their Functions

(a) The incisors: these are in the centre of the front of the jaw. They are used for cutting off lumps of food.
(b) The canine: these are beside the incisors. They are pointed and used for tearing food.
(c) Premolar: these are next to the canine. Each has one or more points for cutting. They may also have flat surfaces for grinding food.
(d) Molars: these are behind the premolars. They are similar to the premolars. They are however only present in the permanent dentition.