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## Have missing teeth replaced (1975)

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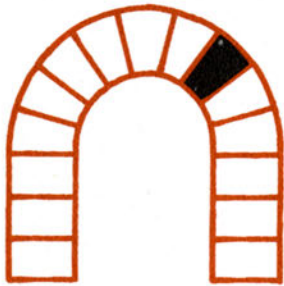
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**HAVE MISSING**

**teeth**

**REPLACED**

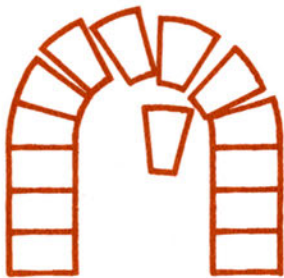


**A marvel of engineering.** That is a description of the way your teeth are set in your jaws and the way they function in chewing.

The efficient chewing of food is a complex operation. It requires that your teeth be in the correct position and that your upper and lower teeth come together properly.

An engineer builds an arch with stones that support one another. When a stone is lost from the arch, the other stones shift. Eventually the whole arch will weaken and collapse.

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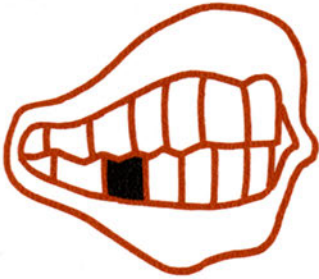
Similarly, each of your teeth depends on your other teeth to keep it in proper position.

The result is teeth that function together as they should.

With proper personal oral hygiene and the best in preventive professional care you may never lose a tooth.

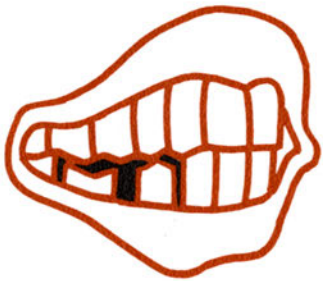
If you **do** lose one of your teeth, the adjacent teeth and the tooth in the opposite jaw move toward the empty space.

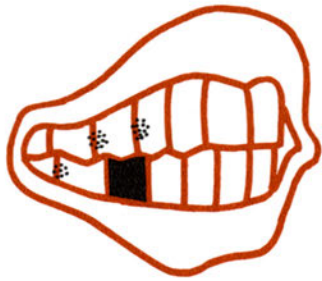
When one or more teeth are missing, the adjacent teeth lose the support the missing teeth provided. The stresses of chewing are unevenly distributed among the remaining teeth. These uneven stresses affect the periodontal (supporting) tissues of the teeth—the bone and gingiva (gums). As a result the teeth shift out of their proper position, allowing food to become caught and packed between them. This provides a ready supply of food for the bacterial plaque, a major cause of periodontal disease and dental caries. A combination of all these factors—impacted food, bacterial plaque, un-



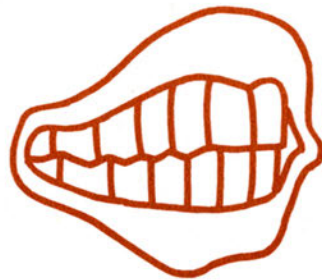
even stresses—results in infection of the gums, damage to the bone around the teeth, and decay of the other teeth involved.

You may not be aware of any difference in your chewing or of what is happening in your mouth until the more serious problems develop. Because of the loss of **one tooth**, you will experience reduced chewing capability and you may eventually lose several other teeth.





If you lose a tooth by accident or as a result of disease, there is something you can and should do to protect your dental health. Have your dentist replace the missing tooth with an artificial one, such as a permanent bridge or partial denture. This will enable your teeth to function as a whole unit once again, restoring your chewing efficiency. Also, it will protect the health of your other teeth by preventing them from moving from their normal positions.



Most persons will have a missing front tooth replaced because their appearance is affected by the loss of the tooth. But replacing back teeth — those other people cannot see — is just as important, as it will help assure you of a healthier, more comfortable and attractive mouth.

It is important for your total health to give your teeth and gums the attention they deserve. Consult your dentist regularly for oral check-ups, instruction on daily brushing and flossing and proper dietary habits. With such care you can keep your teeth all your life.

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