



Dental Model Instructions

Marla Yoshida
University of California, Irvine
Division of Continuing Education,
International Programs
yoshidam@uci.edu

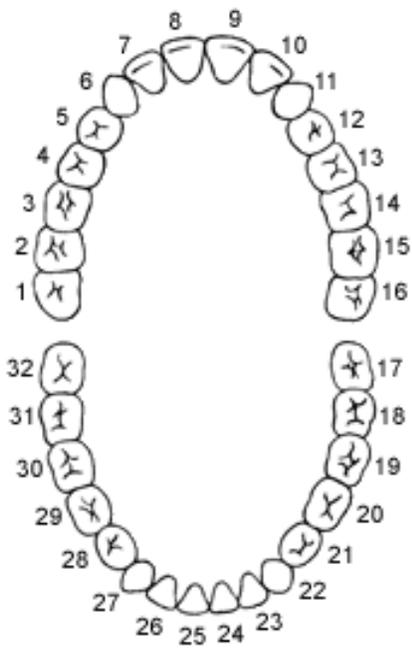
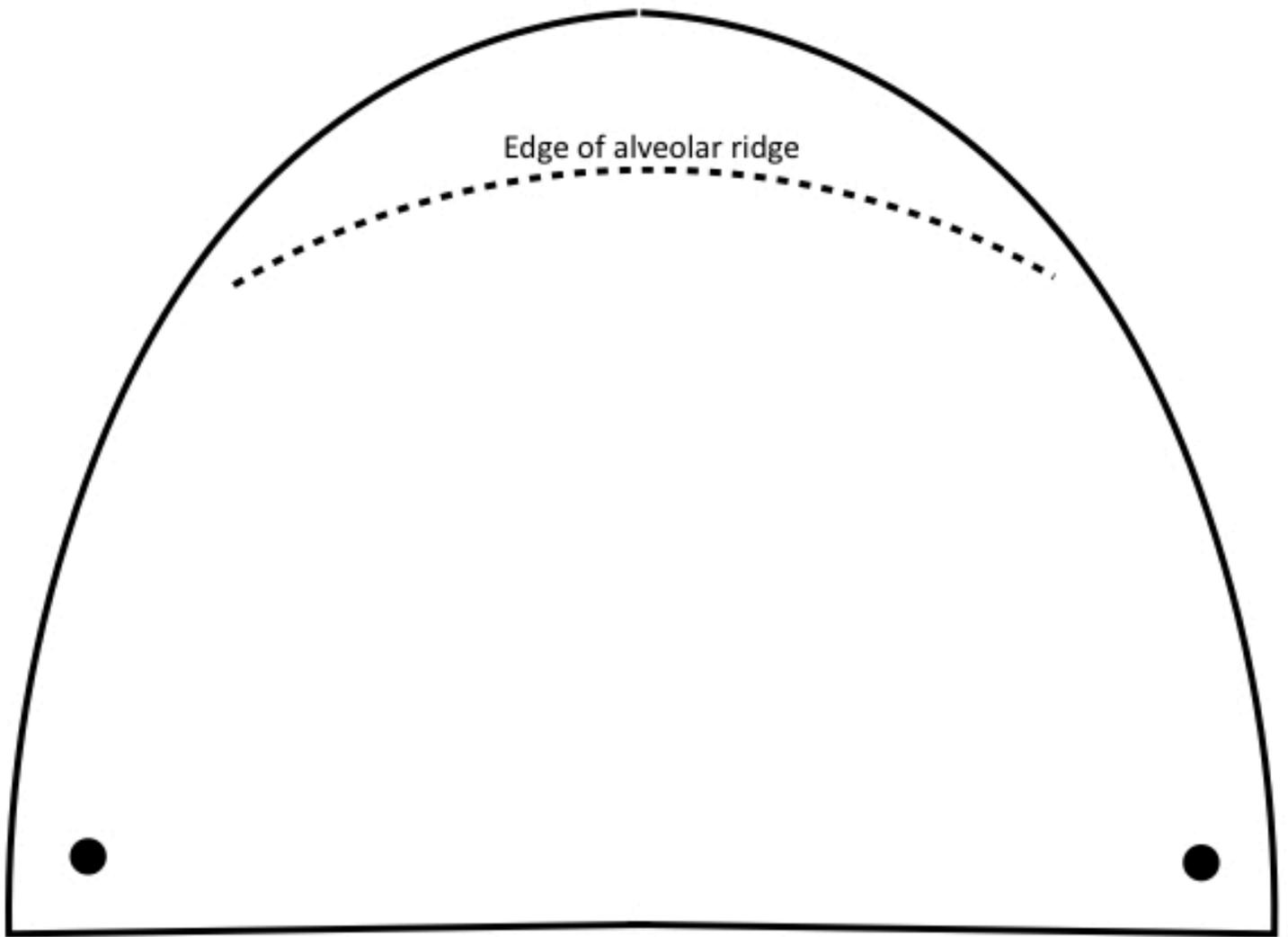
See PowerPoint with pictures and instructions at
<http://teachingpronunciation.weebly.com>.

Materials. You'll need:

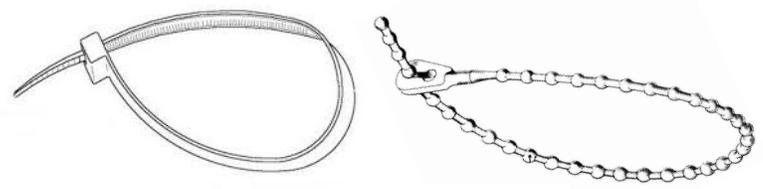
- A base for the roof and bottom of the mouth. It should be somewhat curved, strong enough to withstand handling, but not too rigid to cut easily. A large bowl made of flexible plastic works well. You could also use a big soda bottle, water bottle, or other bottle (a bit flimsy and small, but readily available).
- Material for teeth. Lightweight, air-hardening clay, such as Crayola's Model Magic, works best.
- Material for gums and alveolar ridge. A strip of flexible foam material, such as a piece of a "pool noodle" or flexible foam packing material, works well. You can also use lightweight, air-hardening clay, such as Crayola's Model Magic for this too.
- Two fasteners to hold the top and bottom sections together, such as cable ties, wire, or strong string.
- Glue that is appropriate for the materials you've chosen. Hot melt glue works for most materials.

Instructions

- Enlarge or reduce the pattern to fit the base you've chosen. (About 7-8 inches/18-20 cm. from front to back is a good size.)
- Trace the pattern twice on the base material. If you're using a bowl, put the curved side of the pattern on the curvier, bottom part of the bowl and the flat side along the rim.
- Cut out the pieces you've marked using strong scissors, tin snips, or a similar tool.
- Pierce or drill holes in both pieces at the dots. These will be the hinge of the jaw.
- For the gums, cut two strips of flexible foam or shape strips of clay long enough to fit around the front outside curve of the top and bottom jaws. Glue them in place.
- Cut out or shape a thin, curved piece of foam or clay about ½ inch/1.5 cm. thick to serve as the alveolar ridge. Glue it into position just behind where the front top teeth will be. If you've used air-drying clay for the last two steps, let it dry.
- Shape or cut teeth, using the pictures below as a guide. (Don't worry if you don't have the correct number of teeth.) Start from front center and work backwards for best symmetry. If you're using clay, form a rolled shape big enough for two teeth, then cut it in half with scissors to get a good basic tooth shape. Flatten the top of the tooth against the gums with lots of overlap for strength. For molars, make teeth deeper and shape indentations with a toothpick or small stick. Glue the teeth in place and let them dry.
- Connect the top and bottom pieces at the dots using cable ties, wire, or strong string—don't make it too tight. Make sure the jaws can open and close smoothly and there's room for your hand to slip through at the back.



Adult teeth



Cable ties