

THE DENTIST

NEVER TRUST HIM



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
The Dentist.....	4
The Dentist – story and reading comprehension questions.....	10
Reading Comprehension Questions.....	18
True or False.....	21
Essential Vocabulary.....	23
What is the Correct Synonym?.....	24
What is the Correct Antonym?.....	25
Words and Meanings.....	26
Gap Fill Exercise.....	27
Discussion Questions.....	25
Role Play.....	27
Survey.....	28
Quiz — Are You a Psychopath?.....	31
Debate: Trust and Authority in Medicine.....	32
Writing.....	33
Reading Comprehension Questions – model answers.....	34
True or False — Answers.....	39
What is the Correct Synonym — answers.....	40
What is the Correct Antonym — answers.....	41
Words and Meanings — answers.....	42
Gap Fill Exercise — answers.....	43
Credits.....	41

Introduction

Use these questions to start a friendly class discussion about dentists and fear.

Students work in pairs first, then share one idea with the class. Encourage full-sentence answers.

1. Do you like to go to the dentist? Why/why not?
2. What do you dislike about going to the dentist?
3. What is a psychopath?
4. Could a dentist be a psychopath? What if he was?

The Dentist

Read the story below.

Underline any words you don't know.

Michael hated it.

He hated sitting in the chair and feeling helpless. The bright light above his head and the clean, hygienic walls that surrounded him.

It all made him feel incredibly uneasy.

"Michael, I can assure you, there is nothing to worry about," said Mr Crane. He wore his dentist's white coat and had perfect white teeth. He gazed back at Michael with a relaxed air. Like there was nothing to worry about.

It was all right for him. He wasn't sitting in the chair. He was not about to have treatment for a new crown to be fitted.

Michael shifted his weight in the chair and grimaced.

"I'm sorry about last time," he said. "It's just a stupid fear I have."

"Fear of going to the dentist?" asked Mr Crane. "Don't worry

about it. I get this all the time from patients.”

He leaned forward. “Some are a lot of trouble, I can assure you.”

He gave Michael an encouraging smile.

This did nothing for Michael's nerves. He would rather be anywhere else than in this dentist's chair. He could accept the pain in his tooth. That was much better than sitting here, while Mr Crane drilled into the offending tooth.

“Michael, I have something I want to show you,” said Mr Crane, going to a small tray to the side of the room. He turned and picked up a small glass vial. He raised it to show to Michael. It was filled with a clear liquid.

“This is a new anaesthetic on the market,” he went on. “It is brand new, and only my private patients are allowed to have it. The company that makes it wants it to be very secret.”

Mr Crane sat on the stool next to Michael and looked down at him. "But this is an incredible formula. It is probably the best pain-killer on the market."

The dentist continued to hold Michael’s gaze. “Would you like to try it?”

“I- I don’t want to be any trouble,” said Michael.

But his eyes were fixed on the small vial held between Mr Crane's finger and thumb.

"It's no trouble at all," said Mr Crane. He leaned forward and lowered his voice. "Our little secret."

The thought of being given something so powerful that he would not experience any pain at all sent a calm, soothing feeling through Michael's nerves. He could feel himself relaxing as if he were already under the influence of the new painkiller.

"Are you sure?" asked Michael.

"No problem," said Mr Crane.

Michael lay back in the chair while Mr Crane filled the syringe from the tiny bottle. He hummed a small tune as he did it and Michael recognised it as a popular song that was on the radio.

Through the window, he could make out normal life carrying on outside. He heard a bus drive by and the sound of a bell on a bicycle.

People's voices and children laughing.

Everything was fine. There was nothing to worry about at all.

"Shall we?" said Mr Crane, and he raised the syringe in front of him.

Michael nodded. He would pass by all this pain and torture and

not feel a thing. He was so happy. So relieved.

Mr Crane leaned forward. “You’ll just feel a little jab as the needle goes in. Then, nothing to worry about.”

Michael tensed as the needle entered his gum. Yes, very uncomfortable, and ice-cold, but in a few minutes nothing but deep relaxation.

“All done,” said Mr Crane. “I’ll be back in a few minutes and we can begin.”

Michael lay deeper into the chair and half-closed his eyes. The muscles of his arms, legs, his entire body felt relaxed. A warm soothing feeling washed over him and he felt as if all the worries and anxieties he had ever experienced left him for good.

His body was so relaxed that all he could do was breathe. He tried to lift the little finger of his right hand and it felt as if it moved a little but he couldn’t be sure. He forgot about it and allowed the dream-like quality of the anaesthetic to wash over him.

A little nagging thought tapped at his inner-most mind and he tried to move his little finger again.

It felt as if it moved but he could not feel it really move. It was like he imagined it moving only.

He went to move his head to the right to see his hand more clearly. He could not.

A small jab of tension cleared his mind a little, and he tried again. Nothing.

He could not move his head at all.

He took a deep breath of air into his lungs and automatically tried to lift both of his hands. But they stayed on the armrests of the chair like they were glued there.

No resistance. No feeling.

He simply could not move his arms or head at all.

He kicked out, and neither foot moved.

Michael sucked in a chest full of air and went to call out to Mr Crane. No sound came.

He could not move. And he had lost the power to make any sound.

He was paralysed. Stuck to the chair, but wide awake.

A shadow appeared beside him.

“We should be about ready by now,” said Mr Crane.

His voice sounded like an echo and far away.

And where was the nurse? The dental assistant?

There was usually a young woman helping. It was just him and

Mr Crane. Why was he alone with him?

The dentist's face loomed up in front of Michael.

"Shall we see if this new drug has taken effect yet?" he asked.

He had a bright, shiny scalpel in his hand.

Michael tried to scream but no sound came. He just lay in the chair unable to move.

Mr Crane opened Michael's mouth and jabbed the scalpel against his tongue. A dagger of pain soared through Michael's mouth and into his brain.

Inside his head, he let out a scream.

"Let's get to work then," said Mr Crane, closing the blind of the window.

The Dentist – story and reading comprehension questions

This is the story with reading comprehension questions divided into sections.

Read the story and try to answer the questions below each section. Answer the questions using a full and complete sentence every time.

You can find a list of model answers for all of the questions at the end of the lesson plan.

Section 1

Michael hated it.

He hated sitting in the chair and feeling helpless. The bright light above his head and the clean, hygienic walls that surrounded him.

It all made him feel incredibly uneasy.

“Michael, I can assure you, there is nothing to worry about,” said Mr Crane. He wore his dentist’s white coat and had perfect white teeth. He gazed back at Michael with a relaxed air. Like there was nothing to worry about.

It was all right for him. He wasn't sitting in the chair. He was not about to have treatment for a new crown to be fitted.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who are the two characters in the story?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Why does Michael feel uneasy in the dentist's chair?
4. What is Mr Crane wearing?
5. What treatment is Michael about to have?

Section 2

Michael shifted his weight in the chair and grimaced.

"I'm sorry about last time," he said. "It's just a stupid fear I have."

"Fear of going to the dentist?" asked Mr Crane. "Don't worry about it. I get this all the time from patients."

He leaned forward. "Some are a lot of trouble, I can assure you."

He gave Michael an encouraging smile.

This did nothing for Michael's nerves. He would rather be anywhere else than in this dentist's chair. He could accept the pain in his tooth. That was much better than sitting here, while Mr Crane drilled into the offending tooth.

Reading Comprehension Questions

6. What does Michael apologise for?
7. How does Mr Crane respond to Michael's fear?

8.What would Michael prefer instead of sitting in the chair?

Section 3

“Michael, I have something I want to show you,” said Mr Crane, going to a small tray to the side of the room. He turned and picked up a small glass vial. He raised it to show to Michael. It was filled with a clear liquid.

“This is a new anaesthetic on the market,” he went on. “It is brand new, and only my private patients are allowed to have it. The company that makes it wants it to be very secret.”

Mr Crane sat on the stool next to Michael and looked down at him. "But this is an incredible formula. It is probably the best pain-killer on the market."

Reading Comprehension Questions

- 9.What does Mr Crane show Michael?
10. Who is allowed to use the new anaesthetic?
11. How does Mr Crane describe the formula?

Section 4

The dentist continued to hold Michael’s gaze. “Would you like to try it?”

“I- I don’t want to be any trouble,” said Michael.

But his eyes were fixed on the small vial held between Mr Crane’s

finger and thumb.

“It’s no trouble at all,” said Mr Crane. He leaned forward and lowered his voice. “Our little secret.”

The thought of being given something so powerful that he would not experience any pain at all sent a calm, soothing feeling through Michael’s nerves. He could feel himself relaxing as if he were already under the influence of the new painkiller.

Reading Comprehension Questions

12. What does Mr Crane ask Michael?
13. How does Michael respond at first?
14. What effect does the idea of the anaesthetic have on Michael?

Section 5

“Are you sure?” asked Michael.

“No problem,” said Mr Crane.

Michael lay back in the chair while Mr Crane filled the syringe from the tiny bottle. He hummed a small tune as he did it and Michael recognised it as a popular song that was on the radio.

Through the window, he could make out normal life carrying on outside. He heard a bus drive by and the sound of a bell on a bicycle. People’s voices and children laughing. Everything was fine. There was nothing to worry about at all.

Reading Comprehension Questions

15. What does Michael ask before agreeing?
16. What does Mr Crane do while preparing the syringe?
17. What sounds does Michael hear from outside?

Section 6

“Shall we?” said Mr Crane, and he raised the syringe in front of him.

Michael nodded. He would pass by all this pain and torture and not feel a thing. He was so happy. So relieved.

Mr Crane leaned forward. “You’ll just feel a little jab as the needle goes in. Then, nothing to worry about.”

Michael tensed as the needle entered his gum. Yes, very uncomfortable, and ice-cold, but in a few minutes nothing but deep relaxation.

“All done,” said Mr Crane. “I’ll be back in a few minutes and we can begin.”

Reading Comprehension Questions

18. How does Michael feel about receiving the injection?
19. What does Mr Crane say as he gives the injection?
20. How does the needle feel to Michael?

Section 7

Michael lay deeper into the chair and half-closed his eyes. The

muscles of his arms, legs, his entire body felt relaxed. A warm soothing feeling washed over him and he felt as if all the worries and anxieties he had ever experienced left him for good.

His body was so relaxed that all he could do was breathe. He tried to lift the little finger of his right hand and it felt as if it moved a little but he couldn't be sure. He forgot about it and allowed the dream-like quality of the anaesthetic to wash over him.

Reading Comprehension Questions

21. How does Michael's body feel after the injection?
22. What does Michael try to move first?
23. What does the anaesthetic feel like to Michael?

Section 8

A little nagging thought tapped at his inner-most mind and he tried to move his little finger again.

It felt as if it moved but he could not feel it really move. It was like he imagined it moving only.

He went to move his head to the right to see his hand more clearly. He could not.

A small jab of tension cleared his mind a little, and he tried again. Nothing.

He could not move his head at all.

Reading Comprehension Questions

24. What does Michael try to do after moving his finger?
25. Is he able to move his head?
26. How does this realisation affect him?

Section 9

He took a deep breath of air into his lungs and automatically tried to lift both of his hands. But they stayed on the armrests of the chair like they were glued there.

No resistance. No feeling.

He simply could not move his arms or head at all.

He kicked out, and neither foot moved.

Michael sucked in a chest full of air and went to call out to Mr Crane. No sound came.

He could not move. And he had lost the power to make any sound.

Reading Comprehension Questions

27. What happens when Michael tries to move his hands?
28. What happens when he tries to kick his legs?
29. Can Michael call out for help?

Section 10

He was paralysed. Stuck to the chair, but wide awake.

A shadow appeared beside him.

“We should be about ready by now,” said Mr Crane.

His voice sounded like an echo and far away.

And where was the nurse? The dental assistant?

There was usually a young woman helping. It was just him and Mr Crane. Why was he alone with him?

The dentist’s face loomed up in front of Michael.

“Shall we see if this new drug has taken effect yet?” he asked.

Reading Comprehension Questions

30. What condition is Michael in at this point?
31. Who is missing from the room that makes Michael suspicious?
32. What question does Mr Crane ask?

Section 11

He had a bright, shiny scalpel in his hand.

Michael tried to scream but no sound came. He just lay in the chair unable to move.

Mr Crane opened Michael’s mouth and jabbed the scalpel against his tongue. A dagger of pain soared through Michael’s mouth and into his brain.

Inside his head, he let out a scream.

“Let’s get to work then,” said Mr Crane, closing the blind of the

window.

Reading Comprehension Questions

33. What object does Mr Crane hold in his hand?
34. What happens when he touches Michael's tongue with the scalpel?
35. What does Mr Crane say at the end of the story?

Reading Comprehension Questions

Go through all the questions below. Try to answer them according to the story.

You can find a list of model answers for all of the questions at the end of the lesson plan.

1. Who are the two characters in the story?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Why does Michael feel uneasy in the dentist's chair?
4. What is Mr Crane wearing?
5. What treatment is Michael about to have?
6. What does Michael apologise for?
7. How does Mr Crane respond to Michael's fear?
8. What would Michael prefer instead of sitting in the chair?
9. What does Mr Crane show Michael?
10. Who is allowed to use the new anaesthetic?
11. How does Mr Crane describe the formula?

12. What does Mr Crane ask Michael?
13. How does Michael respond at first?
14. What effect does the idea of the anaesthetic have on Michael?
15. What does Michael ask before agreeing?
16. What does Mr Crane do while preparing the syringe?
17. What sounds does Michael hear from outside?
18. How does Michael feel about receiving the injection?
19. What does Mr Crane say as he gives the injection?
20. How does the needle feel to Michael?
21. How does Michael's body feel after the injection?
22. What does Michael try to move first?
23. What does the anaesthetic feel like to Michael?
24. What does Michael try to do after moving his finger?
25. Is he able to move his head?
26. How does this realisation affect him?
27. What happens when Michael tries to move his hands?
28. What happens when he tries to kick his legs?

29. Can Michael call out for help?
30. What condition is Michael in at this point?
31. Who is missing from the room that makes Michael suspicious?
32. What question does Mr Crane ask?
33. What object does Mr Crane hold in his hand?
34. What happens when he touches Michael's tongue with the scalpel?
35. What does Mr Crane say at the end of the story?

True or False

Go over all the sentences below and say if they are true or false.

If a statement is false, make it true according to the story.

The correct answers can be found at the end of the lesson plan.

1. Michael is at the dentist.
2. Michael loves going to the dentist.
3. Michael feels comfortable and at ease while sitting in the dentist's chair.
4. Mr Crane wears a white coat and has perfect white teeth.
5. Michael's fear of going to the dentist is uncommon and rarely experienced by other patients.
6. Mr Crane doesn't know Michael.
7. Michael needs a new filling for his tooth.
8. Mr Crane shows Michael a little vial.

9. Mr Crane introduces a new tooth cleaner to Michael.
10. Michael doesn't want to try this new medicine.
11. It is during the daytime at the dentist's.
12. Mr Crane lets Michael use the syringe on himself.
13. Michael feels relaxed and relieved of all worries and anxieties.
14. Michael can move his head and little finger after the painkiller is administered.
15. Michael cannot speak.
16. The nurse helps Mr Crane.
17. Mr Crane taps Michael's gum with his finger.
18. Mr Crane closes the blind of the window to let more light into the room.
19. Michael becomes increasingly panicked and tries to scream for help.
20. Mr Crane expresses concern and tries to assist Michael when he realizes something is wrong.
21. Michael is able to call out to Mr Crane for help when he is paralysed.

Essential Vocabulary

relaxed air	loomed up	scream
crown	vulnerability	vivid
grimaced	intentions	realistic
assure	scalpel	muscles
anaesthetic	dental assistant	tune
private students	shiny	assistance
pain-killer	cavity	crisis
nerves	blinds	anxiety
relaxation	hummed	paralysed
jab	soothing	wide awake
influence	tension	sensory details
torture	impact	sinister

Exercise

Write down all the words and phrases in your vocabulary notebook. Look in your dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Write the definition next to each word.

Then make up your own sentences using each word or phrase.

For example:

Relaxed air — *a calm and easygoing atmosphere or demeanour, promoting comfort and informality.*

Scream — *a noun and verb that refers to a loud and high-pitched vocal expression of intense emotion, often conveying fear, excitement, or distress.*

Then write a sentence of your own that uses the new word or phrase correctly.

I entered the room of the party and was glad to see that the place had a very relaxed air.

The woman let out a scream when the man outside banged on the door.

Do this with all the vocabulary and, over time, this will help improve all your English skills — reading, writing, speaking and listening.

What is the Correct Synonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the word on the left with the correct synonym on the right.

A synonym is a word of similar meaning.

grimaced	gleaming
assure	calming
vivid	menacing
realistic	sway
shiny	towered
soothing	anxious
sinister	wincing
influence	reassure
loomed	striking
uneasy	lifelike

What is the Correct Antonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the word on the left with the correct antonym on the right.

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning.

paralysed	comfort
wide awake	stability
anxiety	composure
vulnerability	stress
torture	ease
crisis	capable
nerves	mobile
relaxation	asleep
tension	calm
helpless	strength

Words and Meanings

Look at the words below.

Match each word with the correct meaning underneath.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

Word Bank

anaesthetic • scalpel • cavity • dental assistant • sensory details
• impact • intentions • pain-killer • relaxed air • formula

Meanings

- a) a hole in a tooth caused by decay
- b) the plans or purposes someone has in mind
- c) a drug used to prevent a patient feeling pain during a medical procedure
- d) a small, sharp knife used for cutting in surgery
- e) a calm and easygoing manner or atmosphere

- f) a person who supports a dentist during treatment
- g) a drug or substance used to relieve pain
- h) descriptive details that appeal to the five senses
- i) a powerful effect that something has on someone or something
- j) a specific method or set of ingredients used to achieve a particular result

Gap Fill Exercise

Look at the word bank below.

Use each word from the word bank to complete the sentences below.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

Word Bank

crown • jab • muscles • hummed • private patients • scream •
blinds • assistance • tune • syringe

Sentences

a) Michael needed a new _____ fitted on his damaged tooth.

b) The dentist gave Michael's gum a quick, sharp _____ with the needle.

c) All the _____ in Michael's body began to feel completely relaxed.

- d) Mr Crane _____ softly to himself as he got ready for the treatment.
- e) Only Mr Crane's _____ were allowed to try the new drug.
- f) Michael tried to let out a _____, but no sound came.
- g) Mr Crane closed the _____ of the window before he began.
- h) Michael noticed there was no one offering _____ in the room.
- i) Mr Crane recognised the _____ playing on the radio.
- j) Mr Crane carefully filled the _____ from the small glass bottle of liquid.

Discussion Questions

Look at the list of discussion questions below.

Go around the class and ask and answer all the questions together.

Try to answer the questions according to your own opinions and ideas.

There are no definite true answers to these questions.

1. Have you ever had a similar experience at the dentist, where you felt nervous or uneasy? Can you share your story?
2. What is Michael's feeling about going to the dentist?
3. Why does he feel like this?
4. Put yourself in Michael's shoes. How would you feel and react if you were in his situation?
5. Describe the dentist, Mr Crane, and his attitude towards Michael. Does he seem like a nice person?
6. Has Michael been to visit Mr Crane before? What happened last time, do you think?
7. Is Mr Crane used to people being afraid? How do you know?
8. Mr Crane shows Michael a new anaesthetic. What is really in

this little vial, do you think?

9. What do you think is the significance of the new anaesthetic being described as a "secret formula"?
10. Why do you think Michael decides to try the new anaesthetic despite his fear?
11. Why is there no nurse to help the dentist today?
12. Is Mr Crane a psychopath?
13. Or is Michael imagining it all?
14. Discuss the idea of trust in the story. Why does Michael initially trust Mr Crane, and how does this trust change over time?
15. Imagine you are one of the characters in the story — either Michael or Mr Crane. How would you describe your thoughts and feelings during the crucial moments?
16. What emotions and thoughts might have gone through Michael's mind when he realized he couldn't move or make a sound?
17. Why do you think Mr Crane chose to close the blind of the window before proceeding with his actions?
18. What do you think about this story?
19. Do you think it is realistic? Why/why not?

20. Do psychopaths live within our normal society? What do they do? What kind of jobs do they have?

Role Play

This is a role play exercise.

This role has two characters:

1. Michael
2. Mr Crane

Take all the existing dialogue and use this as a basis for your role play.

You can add your own lines of dialogue if you wish, and you can change all the dialogue if you really want to, but in the end, you should have a complete role play to show the class.

Take some time to prepare and when you are ready, perform your role play in front of the class.

Survey

This is a survey activity.

Look at the questions below and ask these questions in class.

Try to evaluate the responses and talk about the outcomes.

For example; *most people feel comfortable going to the dentist.*

Or; *some people hate seeing the dentist.*

1. How frequently do you visit the dentist for regular check-ups and cleanings?
2. What is the main reason you typically schedule a dental appointment? (e.g., routine check-up, specific dental issue, cleaning)
3. How do you feel about visiting the dentist? (Very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, neutral, somewhat uncomfortable, very uncomfortable)
4. Have you ever experienced dental anxiety or fear before a dental appointment?
5. If yes, can you briefly describe what aspects of visiting the dentist make you anxious or fearful?
6. What strategies, if any, do you use to cope with dental

anxiety or fear? (e.g., deep breathing, listening to music)

7. How important is the demeanour and communication style of the dentist and dental staff to make you feel comfortable during your visit?
8. Are there specific amenities or features in a dental office that help alleviate your anxiety or make you feel more comfortable? (e.g., soothing music, comfortable waiting area)
9. How well-informed do you feel about the procedures and treatments your dentist recommends?
10. Have you ever postponed or cancelled a dental appointment due to anxiety or fear?
11. If yes, what could have been done differently to encourage you to keep the appointment?
12. How likely are you to ask questions or voice your concerns to your dentist during a visit?
13. Have you ever sought professional help, such as therapy or counselling, to address dental anxiety or fear?
14. Do you find that the overall environment and decor of the dental office influence your comfort level?
15. How would you rate your overall dental experience in terms of comfort and anxiety level? (Very positive, somewhat

positive, neutral, somewhat negative, very negative)

16. Are there specific dental procedures that cause you more anxiety than others? If so, please specify.
17. How important are online reviews and recommendations when choosing a new dentist?
18. Have you ever had a particularly positive or calming experience at the dentist? If yes, could you describe it briefly?
19. What suggestions do you have for dental offices to create a more comfortable and anxiety-free environment for their patients?
20. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current dentist and the care you receive?

Quiz — Are You a Psychopath?

This is just for fun! Or maybe not... Answer all the questions and find out if you or any of your classmates are psychopaths!

1. Do you never feel fear?
2. Do other people like you a lot?
3. Do you like to act spontaneously?
4. Do you lose interest in people and new interests quickly?
5. Do you think the idea of falling in love is silly?
6. Are you good at charming others?
7. Do you think money is the most important thing in the world?
8. Do you sometimes pretend to be nice to people, even though you don't want to?
9. Do you think you are better than others?
10. Do you have the ability to be very polite when needed?
11. Do you find other people to be a little stupid sometimes?
12. Do you get bored easily?
13. Do you get jealous of other people sometimes?

14. Do you tell many lies?
15. Do you sometimes spend money on foolish things?
16. Have you ever cheated your family or friends?
17. Do you feel indifferent when people are sad?
18. If you get caught doing something wrong, do you feel no sense of shame or guilt?
19. Are you good at manipulating and/or exploiting others to get what you want?
20. Do you think you are an aggressive person?
21. Do you have few friends in your life?
22. Do you like to take risks?
23. Do you laugh at inappropriate moments?
24. If you answer 'Yes' to most of the questions, then you could be a psychopath!

Now discuss in the class.

Which people answered yes to most of the questions?

Do these people seem like psychopaths to you?

Debate: Trust and Authority in Medicine

Motion: "Patients should always trust a doctor's judgement, even when something feels wrong."

Before the debate — think about the story

In "The Dentist," Michael senses that something is not right, but he goes along with Mr Crane's suggestion anyway, partly out of politeness and partly because he trusts the dentist's professional authority. By the time he realises he has made a mistake, he can no longer act on it.

Setting up the debate

The class is divided into two teams: For the motion and Against the motion. Teams are assigned — you do not choose your own side.

Each team prepares their arguments together.

Each team chooses 2–3 speakers to present.

Useful language for this topic

For the motion:

- Doctors and dentists train for years — their judgement should be respected.
- Constantly second-guessing a professional undermines their ability to treat you.
- Patients rarely have the expertise to judge a medical decision in the moment.
- Trust is essential for treatment to work — without it, medicine breaks down.

Against the motion:

- A patient's instincts and comfort matter, even if they can't explain them medically.
- Blind trust removes a patient's right to question or consent.
- Professionals can make mistakes, or worse, abuse their position of trust.
- Speaking up, even respectfully, should never be seen as rude

or difficult.

Useful vocabulary:

trust, authority, judgement, instinct, consent, expertise,
scepticism, hierarchy, obedience, professional

Debate format

Opening statements — one speaker per team (1 minute each)

Main arguments — remaining speakers present their points (1–2 minutes each)

Rebuttal round — each team responds to the other side's strongest point (1 minute each)

Closing statements — one speaker per team sums up (1 minute each)

After the debate

Take an informal class vote: which side was more convincing?

Discuss why opinions differ — and whether anyone's personal

opinion changed after arguing the opposite side.

Timing

For a 50-minute class, allow around 5 minutes to introduce the motion, 10 minutes for team preparation, 20–25 minutes for the debate itself, and the remaining time for the post-discussion and class vote.

Writing

This is a creative writing exercise.

You are going to write a short story. It is a continuation of the story you read at the beginning of the lesson plan. The title of the story is:

The Dentist From Hell

Use the questions below to help you come up with some ideas.

Does Mr Crane try to kill Michael?

Is the pain all inside Michael's head? If so, why?

What does Mr Crane do when he finds that Michael cannot move or speak?

Does someone come to help Michael?

Now write your story.

When you have finished writing, you can read it out loud in front of the class.

Or hand it to your teacher for review.

Reading Comprehension Questions – Model Answers

These are the model answers to the reading comprehension questions.

Your answers should be close to the answers below, but maybe not exactly the same.

Your teacher can help you.

1. Who are the two characters in the story?

The two characters in the story are Michael and Mr Crane, the dentist.

2. Where does the story take place?

The story takes place in a dentist's surgery.

3. Why does Michael feel uneasy in the dentist's chair?

Michael feels uneasy in the dentist's chair because he hates feeling helpless under the bright light and clean walls.

4. What is Mr Crane wearing?

Mr Crane is wearing a white dentist's coat.

5. What treatment is Michael about to have?

Michael is about to have a new crown fitted.

6. What does Michael apologise for?

Michael apologises for being afraid during his previous visit.

7. How does Mr Crane respond to Michael's fear?

Mr Crane tells Michael not to worry and says that many patients are afraid of the dentist.

8. What would Michael prefer instead of sitting in the chair?

Michael would prefer to endure the pain in his tooth rather than sit in the dentist's chair.

9. What does Mr Crane show Michael?

Mr Crane shows Michael a small glass vial filled with clear liquid.

10. Who is allowed to use the new anaesthetic?

Only Mr Crane's private patients are allowed to use the new anaesthetic.

11. How does Mr Crane describe the formula?

Mr Crane describes the formula as incredible and probably the best pain-killer on the market.

12. What does Mr Crane ask Michael?

Mr Crane asks Michael if he would like to try the new anaesthetic.

13. How does Michael respond at first?

At first, Michael says that he does not want to be any trouble.

14. What effect does the idea of the anaesthetic have on Michael?

The idea of the anaesthetic makes Michael feel calm and relaxed as if his fear is already gone.

15. What does Michael ask before agreeing?

Michael asks if Mr Crane is sure about giving him the anaesthetic.

16. What does Mr Crane do while preparing the syringe?

While preparing the syringe, Mr Crane hums a tune from the radio.

17. What sounds does Michael hear from outside?

Michael hears a bus, a bicycle bell, people's voices, and children laughing outside.

18. How does Michael feel about receiving the injection?

Michael feels happy and relieved that he will not feel any pain.

19. What does Mr Crane say as he gives the injection?

Mr Crane tells Michael that he will just feel a little jab and then nothing to worry about.

20. How does the needle feel to Michael?

The needle feels very uncomfortable and ice-cold to Michael.

21. How does Michael's body feel after the injection?

Michael's body feels deeply relaxed and free from all his worries and anxieties.

22. What does Michael try to move first?

Michael tries to move the little finger of his right hand first.

23. What does the anaesthetic feel like to Michael?

The anaesthetic feels dream-like and soothing to Michael.

24. What does Michael try to do after moving his finger?

After moving his finger, Michael tries to turn his head to the right.

25. Is he able to move his head?

No, Michael is not able to move his head at all.

26. How does this realisation affect him?

The realisation that he cannot move his head makes Michael

tense and worried.

27. What happens when Michael tries to move his hands?

When Michael tries to move his hands, they stay glued to the armrests of the chair.

28. What happens when he tries to kick his legs?

When he tries to kick his legs, neither of them moves.

29. Can Michael call out for help?

No, Michael cannot call out for help because no sound comes from his mouth.

30. What condition is Michael in at this point?

Michael is paralysed, stuck to the chair, but still fully awake.

31. Who is missing from the room that makes Michael suspicious?

The nurse or dental assistant is missing from the room, which makes Michael suspicious.

32. What question does Mr Crane ask?

Mr Crane asks if the new drug has taken effect yet.

33. What object does Mr Crane hold in his hand?

Mr Crane holds a bright, shiny scalpel in his hand.

34. What happens when he touches Michael's tongue with the scalpel?

When Mr Crane touches Michael's tongue with the scalpel, Michael feels a sharp dagger of pain.

35. What does Mr Crane say at the end of the story?

At the end of the story, Mr Crane says, "Let's get to work then,"

as he closes the blind of the window.

True or False — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

How many did you get right?

1. Michael is at the dentist. True.
2. Michael loves going to the dentist. False.
3. Michael feels comfortable and at ease while sitting in the dentist's chair. False.
4. Mr Crane wears a white coat and has perfect white teeth. True.
5. Michael's fear of going to the dentist is uncommon and rarely experienced by other patients. False.
6. Mr Crane doesn't know Michael. False.
7. Michael needs a new filling for his tooth. False.
8. Mr Crane shows Michael a little vial. True.
9. Mr Crane introduces a new tooth cleaner to Michael. False.
10. Michael doesn't want to try this new medicine. False.
11. It is during the daytime at the dentist's. True.
12. Mr Crane lets Michael use the syringe on himself. False.

13. Michael feels relaxed and relieved of all worries and anxieties. True.
14. Michael can move his head and little finger after the painkiller is administered. False.
15. Michael cannot speak. True.
16. The nurse helps Mr Crane. False.
17. Mr Crane taps Michael's gum with his finger. False.
18. Mr Crane opens the blind of the window to let more light into the room. False.
19. Michael becomes increasingly panicked and tries to scream for help. True.
20. Mr Crane expresses concern and tries to assist Michael when he realizes something is wrong. False.
21. Michael is able to call out to Mr Crane for help when he is paralysed. False.

What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

grimaced	wincing
assure	reassure
vivid	striking
realistic	lifelike
shiny	gleaming
soothing	calming
sinister	menacing
influence	sway
loomed	towered
uneasy	anxious

What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

paralysed	mobile
wide awake	asleep
anxiety	calm
vulnerability	strength
torture	comfort
crisis	stability
nerves	composure
relaxation	stress
tension	ease
helpless	capable

Words and Meanings — Answers

anaesthetic	c
scalpel	d
cavity	a
dental assistant	f
sensory details	h
impact	i
intentions	b
pain-killer	g
relaxed air	e
formula	j

Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

crown	a
jab	b
muscles	c
hummed	d
private patients	e
scream	f
blinds	g
assistance	h
tune	i
syringe	j

Credits

This lesson plan is courtesy of ManWrites.

This content is copyright ManWrites 2026 —
ManWrites©2026

For more information, go to

www.manwrites.com

Or join my mailing list below and I will send you
more ESL teaching ideas.

ManWrites Mailing List