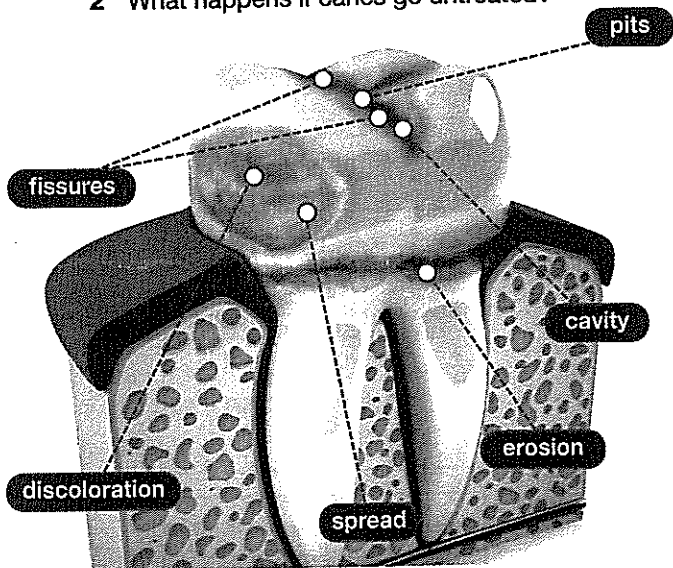


Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What causes dental caries?
- 2 What happens if caries go untreated?



Catch Dental Caries Before It's Too Late!

Stage one — slight

Acid produced by sugar-loving bacteria in plaque start to **erode** tooth enamel. This leads to the **formation** of small **cavities** in **pits** and **fissures** in the biting surfaces of teeth. At this point, there are no **symptoms**. The cavities are painless.

Stage two — minor

The cavity deepens until it reaches the underlying dentin, and then it begins to **spread**. The patient will begin to feel some **sensitivity** when eating hot, cold or sweet foods and drinks.

Stage three — advanced

The cavity spreads further and begins to **weaken** the tooth. There may be some **discoloration** and pain.

Stage four — severe

The tooth is now very weak. **Fractures** may develop when biting down, especially if the cavity is under a filling. The tooth may break altogether. Root canal procedures are necessary to prevent the spread of infection in the dental pulp.

Reading

2 Read the article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main purpose of the article?
 - A to explain how to stop caries developing
 - B to explain how dentists treat caries
 - C to explain how caries develop
 - D to explain how dentists identify small cavities
- 2 What is NOT a symptom of dental caries, according to the article?
 - A discoloration
 - B sensitivity
 - C pain
 - D bad breath
- 3 The cavity becomes sensitive when it starts attacking the _____.
 - A plaque
 - B enamel
 - C dentin
 - D dental pulp

Vocabulary

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

word BANK

caries advanced fracture spread
weaken fissures sensitivity

- 1 If you don't treat the infection, it will _____.
- 2 A groove in the top of a tooth is called a _____.
- 3 Jenny feels some _____ in her teeth when she eats ice-cream.
- 4 A small crack can develop into a _____, then cause the tooth to break.
- 5 This cavity is already in its _____ stages, so we must treat it now.
- 6 Cavities can _____ teeth and cause them to break.
- 7 Dental _____ are more common now, as our diet contains more sugar.