**Study Guide for Maxillary and Mandibular Premolars**

**Let’s Begin**

Now that you’ve learned about the anterior teeth, let’s move on to the posterior teeth. The first posterior teeth that you’ll encounter are the premolars. They are like transitional teeth between your relatively thin anterior teeth vs the more bulky molar teeth. They are the same with the anterior teeth in the sense that they also developed from four lobes. Also, from the buccal, they look more like your canines. However, premolar teeth function more like the molar teeth.

In this module, you will learn about the functions and the different characteristics of the maxillary and mandibular premolars. At the end of this module, you should be able to identify and differentiate the canines from the other teeth in the oral cavity.

**Read/Watch**

Go through the attached powerpoint presentation. Make sure you have read it before the scheduled synchronous session so you can participate. The session will be recorded and posted on VLE for the benefit of those who cannot attend the live session. You are, however, highly encouraged to attend if your connectivity allows.

Other reading resources:

* “Chapters 9 & 10.” *Wheeler's Dental Anatomy, Physiology, and Occlusion*, by Stanley J. Nelson, 10th ed., Elsevier Saunders, 2015, pp. 135-162.

**Think**

Now that you’ve learned about the different features of maxillary and mandibular premolars, give some thought into this we will discuss your answers during our synchronous session.

*“What features of each premolar will allow you to differentiate it from its contralateral?”*

**Dig Deeper**

Try this exercise at home.

Get all your premolar teeth models and gather them all in your palm or in a container. Mix them all together and then try to identify them one by one. How will you go about it? Try these steps:

1. Classify the maxillary vs the mandibular premolar. If the tooth is maxillary, lay them down with the root pointing up. If the tooth is mandibular, lay them down with the root pointing down.
2. Then go about it according to arch. Determine the buccal surface so you’re looking at it as if in a person’s mouth. Review the different features of premolars. Never rely on just one characteristic/feature because if that is absent, you will be lost. Remember that there are several distinct features that will help you identify a tooth.
3. Identify the mesial surface while you’re looking at it from the buccal. Once you’ve identified it, position the model as if you have an imaginary midline.

Let me know how you fared with this activity. Is it getting easier? If you have any difficulty or questions, please do not hesitate to send me a private message on VLE or email. Have fun!