

The International Tooth Numbering System (from www.drhart.com):

Dentists, the United States government, law enforcement agencies, and insurance companies use a universal, international numbering system to identify teeth. The system is based on an observer looking directly at the patient, as opposed to looking in the mirror.

As you look at another person (or a photograph of yourself), tooth # 1 is the patient's upper right 3rd molar, or wisdom tooth. The upper teeth are then numbered from the patient's right to left, until you get to Tooth # 16, the upper left 3rd molar (wisdom tooth). If it helps, pretend that you are looking at the person (or your photograph) while yawning.

Now, you would think that the lower teeth would also be numbered from right to left, too. However, and this has never made sense to me, the tooth numbering system reverses for the lower teeth! Tooth # 17 is the lower LEFT 3rd molar (wisdom tooth), and the last tooth, # 32, is the lower RIGHT 3rd molar (wisdom tooth).

<p>Upper Right:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: 3rd Molar (wisdom tooth) 2: 2nd Molar (12-year molar) 3: 1st Molar (6-year molar) 4: 2nd Bicuspid (2nd premolar) 5: 1st Bicuspid (1st premolar) 6: Cuspid (canine/eye tooth) 7: Lateral incisor 8: Central incisor 		<p>Upper Left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9: Central incisor 10: Lateral incisor 11: Cuspid (canine/eye tooth) 12: 1st Bicuspid (1st premolar) 13: 2nd Bicuspid (2nd premolar) 14: 1st Molar (6-year molar) 15: 2nd Molar (12-year molar) 16: 3rd Molar (wisdom tooth)
<p>Lower Right:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25: Central incisor 26: Lateral incisor 27: Cuspid (canine/eye tooth) 28: 1st Bicuspid (1st premolar) 29: 2nd Bicuspid (2nd premolar) 30: 1st Molar (6-year molar) 31: 2nd Molar (12-year molar) 32: 3rd Molar (wisdom tooth) 		<p>Lower Left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17: 3rd Molar (wisdom tooth) 18: 2nd Molar (12-year molar) 19: 1st Molar (6-year molar) 20: 2nd Bicuspid (2nd premolar) 21: 1st Bicuspid (1st premolar) 22: Cuspid (canine/eye tooth) 23: Lateral incisor 24: Central incisor

remember:

When you use this diagram, it's as if you are looking at a photograph of yourself yawning, NOT as if you are looking in the mirror! If you are using this chart to evaluate your own treatment, be sure that you remember to reverse the image in your mind.

Precision Dentistry in a Comfortable Environment



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