

DENTAL NUMBERING SYSTEMS

Primary (Deciduous) Teeth

There are three different numbering systems used to identify the primary teeth in dentistry.

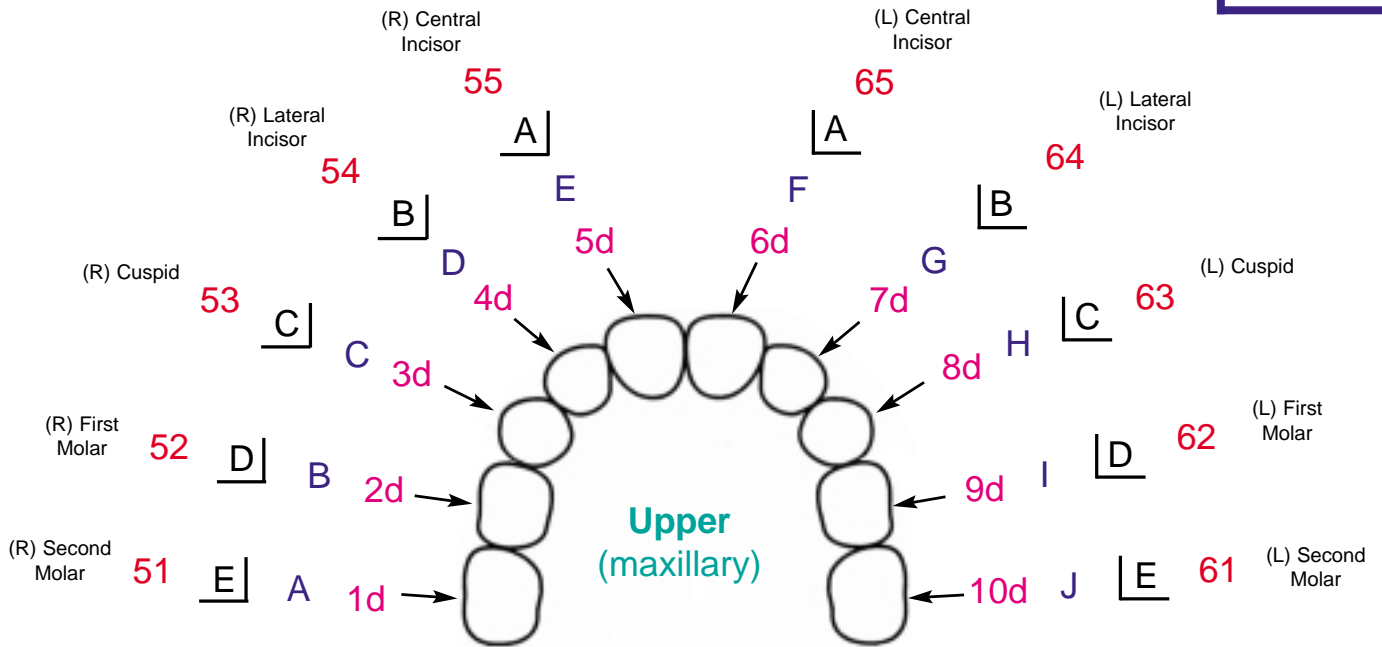
1. The **Primary Universal Numbering System** was adopted by the ADA in 1968 and is in use by most general and pedodontists dentists today. Tooth letter A is the farthest back on the right side of the mouth in the upper (maxillary) jaw. The letters continue along the upper teeth toward the front and across to the tooth farthest back on the top left side letter J. The letters continue by dropping down to the lower (mandibular) jaw. Letter K is the tooth farthest back on the left side of the mouth on the bottom. Letters continue again toward the front and across to the tooth farthest back on the bottom right side of the mouth letter T. Some dentist use the alternative version which is they number the teeth from 1 – 20 in the same procedure stated above but they place a lower case d (deciduous) right after to the number.
2. The **Primary Palmer Notation Numbering System** is used by some orthodontist, pedodontists, and oral surgeons. The mouth is divided into four sections called quadrants. The letters A through E and a unique symbol is used to identify the teeth in each quadrant. The letters run from the center of the mouth to the back. In the upper right quadrant tooth A is the incisor. The letters continue to the right and back to tooth E which is the second molar. The letters sit inside an L – shaped symbol used to identify the quadrants. The L is right side up for the teeth in the upper left quadrant. The teeth in the upper right use a backwards L for the bottom quadrants, the L is upside down following the same pattern from the uppers.
3. The **Primary Federation Dentaire Internationale Numbering System (FDI)**. Internationally the two – digit system is widely used in Canada and European countries. In 1996, the ADA adopted this system. Every branch of dentistry uses this system. The mouth is divided into four sections called a quadrant. Each quadrant is assigned a number. The maxillary right quadrant is assigned the number 5, the maxillary left quadrant is assigned the number 6, the mandibular left quadrant is assigned the number 7, and the mandibular right quadrant is assigned the number 8. The teeth with each quadrant are assigned a number from 1 – 5 with 1 being the second molar and 5 being the central incisor.

PRIMARY TEETH

DENTAL NUMBERING SYSTEMS

ILLUSTRATED

1



FDI
PALMER
UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL ALTERNATIVE
RIGHT
LEFT
UNIVERSAL ALTERNATIVE
UNIVERSAL
PALMER
FDI

