

## Illegal teeth whitening could damage health

19th February, 2020



Everyone these days seems to want a gleaming set of pearly white teeth. Having the perfect Hollywood smile has created the multi-billion-dollar global teeth-whitening industry. However, not all is shiny and bright

behind this business. A new report from the BBC states that illegal teeth-whitening beauticians are putting their customers at risk of serious health problems. These include burnt gums and lips, blisters and lost teeth. The BBC reports that the General Dental Council in the UK reported a 26 per cent increase in complaints last year from people who had suffered problems after teeth-whitening procedures. In many cases, the people performing the teeth whitening were untrained and unqualified.

The teeth-whitening industry in the UK is regulated and the practice can only be performed by professionals who have registered with the General Dental Council. The BBC carried out an undercover investigation, which unearthed "thousands" of ill-qualified teeth-whitening practitioners. Two BBC researchers went undercover and paid nearly \$400 each to attend a teeth-whitening course at a London beauty college. The course lasted just five hours. The researchers received a certificate of attendance and were told they could earn \$100 an hour to treat customers. Anyone attending these courses and setting up their own businesses would be doing so illegally and they could end up with a criminal record.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [thesun.co.uk](http://thesun.co.uk) / [standard.co.uk](http://standard.co.uk)

### Writing

Having beautiful, straight white teeth helps us to be successful in life. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

white teeth / multi-billion dollar / global industry / gums / lips / blisters / complaints / teeth whitening / professionals / undercover / beauty / health / customers / criminal

### True / False

- a) The article said everyone used to want pearly white teeth. T / F
- b) Having a Hollywood smile can cost a billion dollars. T / F
- c) Beauticians are causing burnt gums and lips in some people. T / F
- d) Some people performing teeth whitening are unqualified and untrained. T / F
- e) The teeth-whitening industry in the UK is unregulated. T / F
- f) The BBC found dozens of ill-qualified teeth whiteners. T / F
- g) A teeth-whitening course lasts just five hours. T / F
- h) Setting up a teeth-whitening business can result in a criminal record. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>gleaming</b>    | a. conducted      |
| 2. <b>perfect</b>     | b. protests       |
| 3. <b>at risk</b>     | c. taking part in |
| 4. <b>complaints</b>  | d. instances      |
| 5. <b>cases</b>       | e. shining        |
| 6. <b>regulated</b>   | f. incognito      |
| 7. <b>carried out</b> | g. take home      |
| 8. <b>undercover</b>  | h. ideal          |
| 9. <b>earn</b>        | i. monitored      |
| 10. <b>attending</b>  | j. in danger      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) How happy are you with your teeth?
- b) How important are white teeth to you?
- c) What problems have you had with your teeth?
- d) How much money would you spend to improve your teeth?
- e) What should happen to the illegal teeth whiteners?
- f) What serious health problems can bad teeth give you?
- g) What impression does a white smile give?
- h) Why do people go to unqualified teeth whiteners?

## Phrase Match

- |                                           |                             |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a gleaming set of                      | a. professionals            |
| 2. the multi-billion-dollar global        | b. and lips                 |
| 3. teeth-whitening                        | c. pearly white teeth       |
| 4. burnt gums                             | d. businesses               |
| 5. untrained and                          | e. is regulated             |
| 6. The teeth-whitening industry in the UK | f. beauticians              |
| 7. the practice can only be performed by  | g. of attendance            |
| 8. Two BBC researchers went               | h. unqualified              |
| 9. received a certificate                 | i. teeth-whitening industry |
| 10. setting up their own                  | j. undercover               |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should teeth whitening only be done by dentists?
- Would you like to be a dentist?
- What do you do to look after your teeth?
- What changes would you like to make to your teeth?
- In what jobs is it important to have a nice white smile?
- What would different coloured teeth be like?
- What questions would you like to ask a teeth whitener?

## Spelling

- a amilgegn set of pearly white teeth
- teeth-whitening asitbieuanc
- burnt gums and lips, sreitbls and lost teeth
- a 26 per cent increase in namplotics
- teeth-whitening deroerusc p
- untrained and iefquluaind
- the UK is teeldrgau
- carried out an undercover tegaiotsvnnii
- which ahenteurd "thousands"
- teeth-whitening pernisoctria
- received a acrietitfce of attendance
- end up with a malniirc record

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. d
6. i	7. a	8. f	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Carrots

You think carrots are the best thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, mouth guard or flossing.

### Role B – Milk

You think milk is the best thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): carrots, mouth guard or flossing.

### Role C – Mouth Guard

You think a mouth guard is the best thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, carrots or flossing.

### Role D – Flossing

You think flossing is the best thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, mouth guard or carrots.

## Speaking – Teeth

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things for your teeth at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| • Carrots | • Dentist visits |
| • Water   | • Mouth guard    |
| • Milk    | • Gum            |
| • Floss   | • Toothpaste     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.