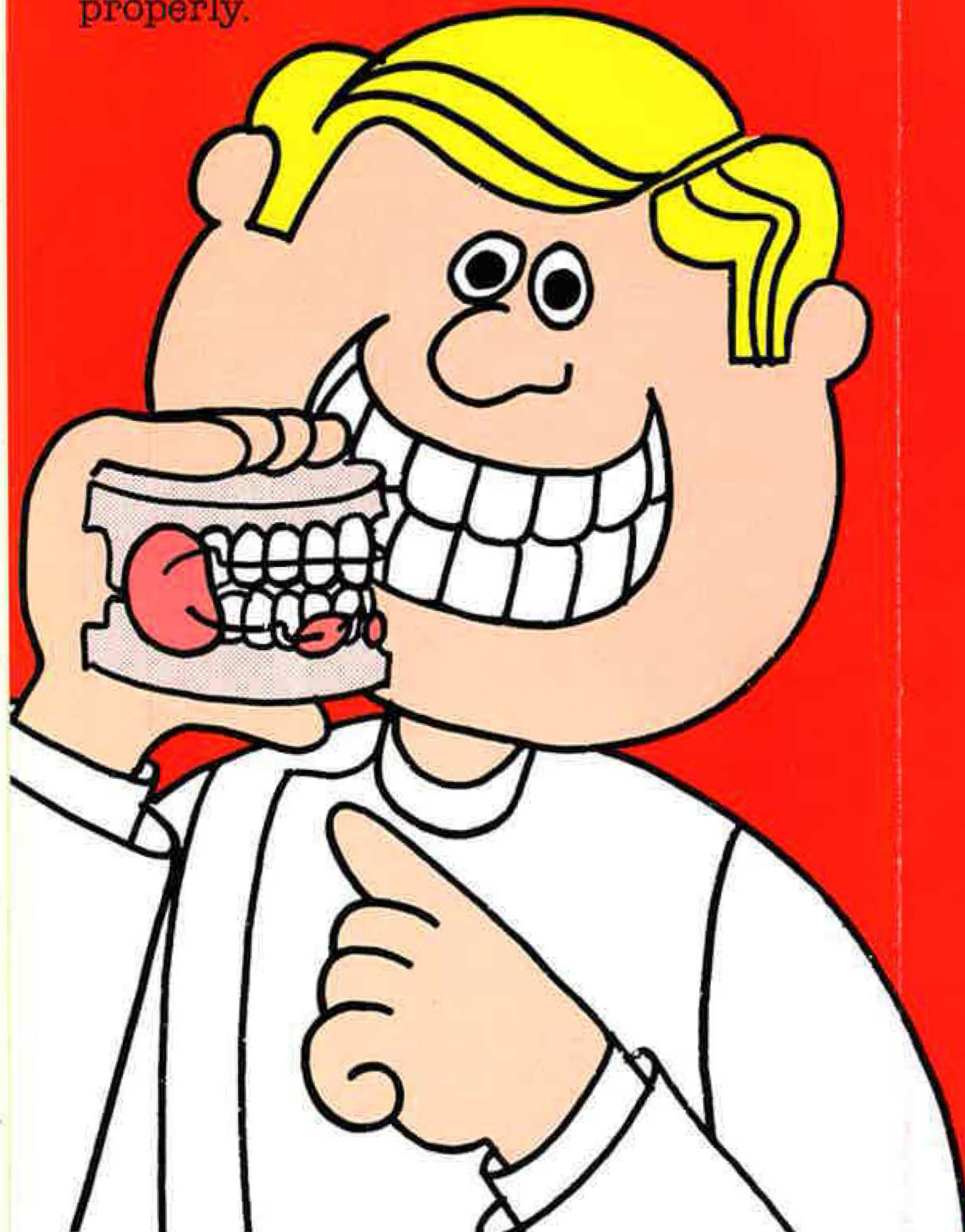
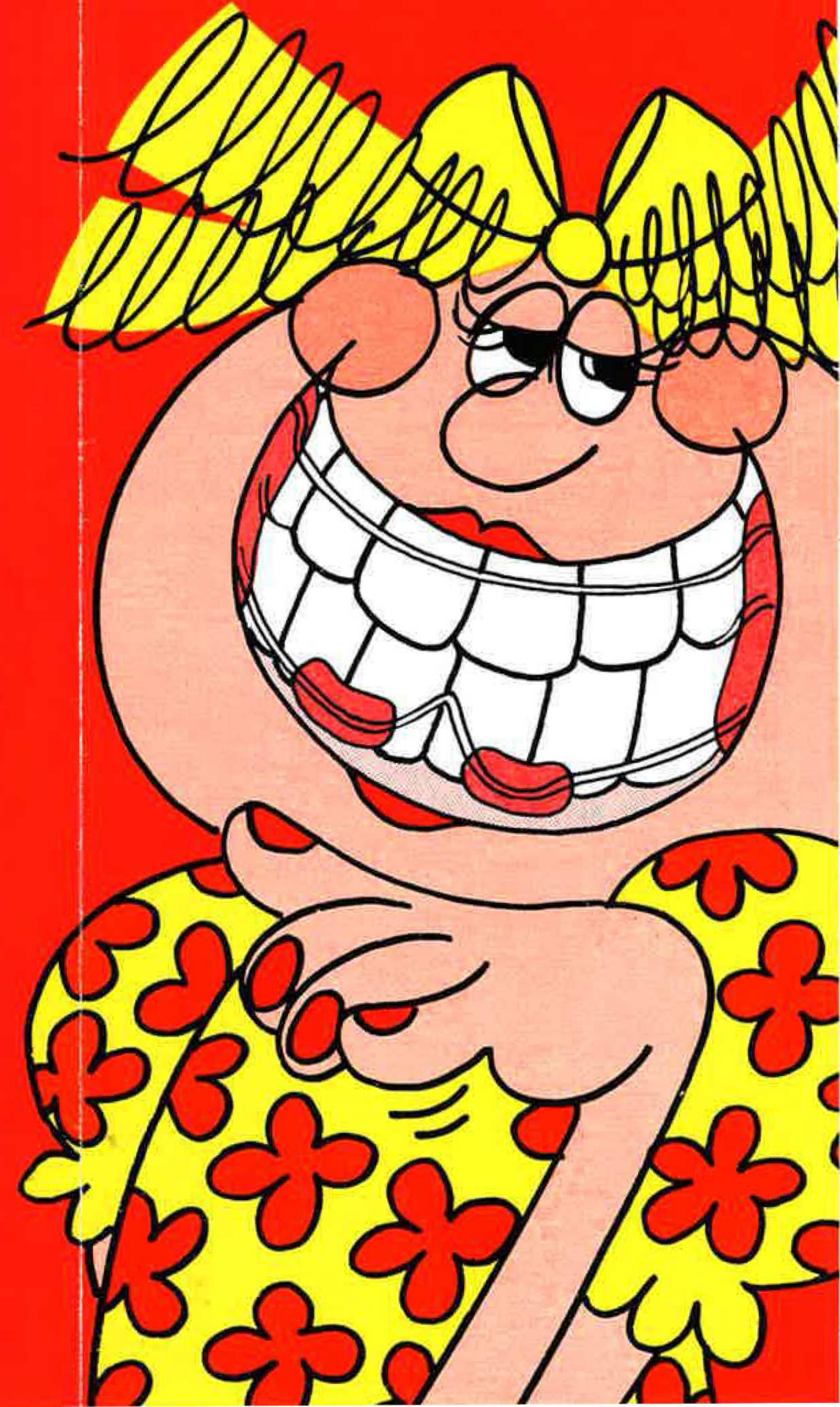


Many malocclusions (mal-bad, occlusion-bite) are the result of an imbalance in facial muscles and bones. Fortunately, your orthodontist is trained to diagnose these conditions and can plan a treatment to establish normal muscle function. In such cases, your orthodontist may prescribe functional orthodontic appliances. These removable devices are sometimes called Frankel appliances, Activators, Bionators, etc., but they all work on a common principle – they normalize facial muscle function so that the teeth and jaws can develop properly.



FUNCTIONAL APPLIANCES



The functional appliance can make big improvements in tooth arrangements and jaw positions, but only when they are worn as much as possible. Your orthodontist will give you special wearing instructions.



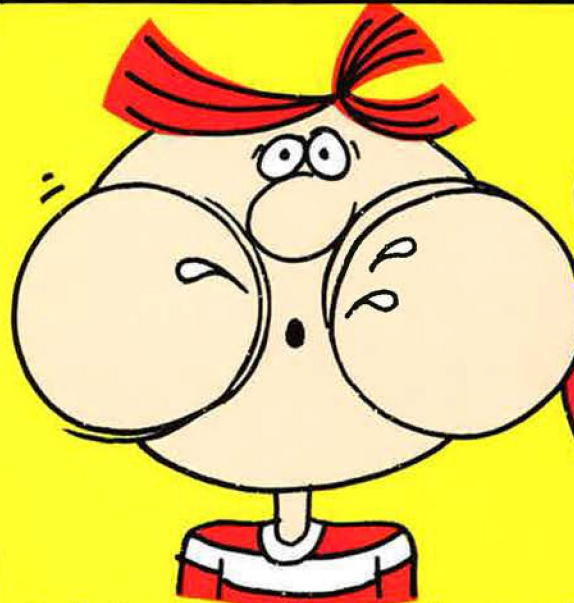
Your functional appliance must be adjusted occasionally by your orthodontist. Sometimes you may even have some sore spots on your gums, but **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE** should you try to adjust the appliance yourself. Call for an appointment and let your orthodontist make any necessary adjustments.



Special situations arise that may keep you from wearing your appliance, such as eating meals, participating in athletic events, or when you clean the appliance. Ordinarily, though, you should be able to wear it most of the **day and night**.

Those appliances are expensive to replace, so be careful with them and remember that they can't be lost when they are in your mouth! When you do take the appliance out of your mouth, keep it in its special container.

NEVER: 1. Wrap it in a napkin 2. Put it in your pocket 3. Leave it out for curious pets and children.



At first your mouth will feel unusually full and speaking will be awkward. However, if you practice reading aloud, your ordinary speech will return quickly. You may also have more saliva than normal, but this will decrease as you become accustomed to the appliance. In the beginning it is important to keep your lips closed because this will exercise your lip muscles as well as prevent you from drooling.

When your lips are separated, the appliance doesn't work well, so

KEEP YOUR LIPS TOGETHER & BREATHE THROUGH YOUR NOSE!

By forming this habit you will maximize the effect of your functional appliance.

When your orthodontist chooses a functional appliance for you, he is trying to provide conditions that will permit your mouth and face to develop correctly. Sometimes, though, it is necessary to put braces on the teeth for a short time afterwards. This is simply a finishing touch to give you the best smile and the strongest bite possible – and that's what we all want.