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BEAUTY COUNSEL



Beauty and health editor Kara Jesella finds the perfect solutions to your primping problems.

a space odyssey

Q. *I have a gap between my two front teeth. I want to get braces so that my smile will look normal, but I've heard that some models want their teeth to look like mine. Is this true? Should I keep my teeth the way they are, or get braces? — Nikita, 14, Houston, TX*

A. Ever since model Lauren Hutton wowed the world with her alluring gap-toothed grin in the sixties, celebrities like Jewel and Kirsten Dunst have become all the more famous for their imperfect bites. "A space between teeth adds individuality, which is sought after by modeling agencies these days," says Lara Bonomo, who selects models for Teen Vogue. "If a model has one, I don't think there is pressure to get it corrected like there once may have been."

If you're still having doubts about that gap, talk to your dentist about your options. **Bruce Hartley, D.D.S., founder of the Peninsula Center of Cosmetic Dentistry,** lists bonding as the fastest and, at \$1500, the least expensive solution, but warns the process only lasts for five to seven years. Veneers, which are ultra-thin sheets of porcelain or composite resin bonded to the surface of the teeth, can be used to hide flaws and make teeth appear whiter, says Hartley. These can last seven to fifteen years and run around \$3000. Hartley considers Invisalign—removable "invisible orthodontics"—a great alternative to braces. These will cost close to \$3000, but the results are permanent. Traditional braces are another possibility, he says, though they need to be worn longer than Invisalign and will set you back about \$2000.

If your dentist agrees that there is no reason—aside from fixing your gap—to undertake one of these procedures, think about embracing your space as a trait that sets you apart. Who knows? It may even be something to smile about.

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stylescopes

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You don't need a perfect smile like Karolina Kurkova's to make it as a model. A quirky grin can be an asset, helping you to stand out from the pack.

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