The hair is gripped by the top attachment (a) and then hangs down (by action of gravity). The comb teeth are then placed within the 'specimen' to be tested and test is then ready to start. During the test the top attachment is driven upwards and so moves away from the fixed bottom attachment and the 'loadcell' measures the forces at the same time the Xhead (crosshead) measures the displacement. (Other possibilities would be scissor comb type attachment which would physically trap the hair between comb-teeth, plus many others)