

Cooking

Cooking



flambé



stir-fry



fry



boil



bake



steamer

steam



casserole

Cook

- When talking generally about preparing meals, use the verb **to cook**:
 - When you're cooking for your family, make an extra serving.
- You can **cook** food or a meal:
 - Lucas is cooking dinner.
 - Cook the onion gently until soft.
- ... or the food or the meal can **cook**:

Add the meat and let it cook for ten minutes. There are different verbs for particular ways of cooking: with water or oil, or in dry heat.

Fry

- You can fry meat, fish, eggs, etc. in a shallow pan of hot oil, or the meat, fish, eggs, etc. can fry:
- ▶ Fry the onion and garlic for five minutes.
- ▶ The smell of frying bacon made her mouth water.
- Chips (BrE) / French fries (NAmE), etc. can be completely covered in very hot oil and deep-fried.
- You can sauté food by frying it quickly in a little hot fat:

new potatoes sautéed in butter and thyme

Boil

- You can boil vegetables, eggs, rice, etc. by covering them with water and heating to **boiling point** (= 100° C):
- ▶ Boil the potatoes until tender, then drain.
- You can also just **boil** the water: I'm boiling the water for the pasta now.
- ... or the container the water is in: Boil a large pan of salted water.
- The vegetables, the water, or (in British English) the container, can **boil**:
 - ▶ The potatoes were boiling away merrily.
 - ▶ The kettle's boiled! Do you want some tea? (BrE)
- If you bring something to the boil (BrE) / a **boil** (*NAmE*) you heat it until it boils; you can then simmer it or let it simmer by letting it boil gently for a period of time:
 - Simmer the carrots in a large pan of water.
 - Bring to the boil and let it simmer for five minutes.
- You can poach food by cooking it gently in a small amount of liquid:
 - Gently poach the salmon fillets for eight minutes.

Preparation



chop



dice



slice



knead



roll out





grate



mash

whip

whisk

Steam

- You can **steam** fish, vegetables, etc. by placing the food above boiling water in a covered container with holes in the bottom so the steam reaches it:
 - Chinese rice is always white and usually prepared by steaming.

Roast

• You can **roast** large pieces of meat, potatoes, etc. by covering the surface of the food with oil in the heat of an oven.

Grill

• You can grill (*BrE*) / broil (*NAmE*) food under direct heat on a grill pan (*BrE*) / broiler pan (*NAmE*).

Bake

- You can bake bread, cakes, potatoes, etc. in the dry heat of an oven or a fire:
 He baked a cake for her birthday.
- ... or the bread, cakes, etc. can bake:
 - While the cake is baking, avoid opening the oven door.
- **Baking** can be used for things that are baked, or for the activity of baking them:
 - ▶ A nice smell of baking came from the kitchen.
- My grandmother always used to bake/do the baking on Saturdays.

GRAMMAR POINT

- The past participle (**-ed** form) of most cooking verbs can be used as an adjective before an item of food, meaning 'that has been cooked in this way':
 - a cooked breakfast (BrE) a warm breakfast (NAME)
 - ▶ a boiled egg
 - sautéed potatoes (also sauté potatoes)
 - BUT roast chicken
- The gerund (-ing form) of some cooking verbs can be used as an adjective before an item of food, meaning 'suitable to be cooked in this way':
 - cooking apples (= that must be cooked before they are eaten)
 - stewing steak
- ... or before a piece of equipment, meaning 'suitable to be used when cooking in this way':
 - ▶ a frying pan
 - ▶ a baking tray (BrE) / baking sheet (NAmE)

Cooking

Fruit and vegetables

• Some fruit and vegetables are always countable:

Do you like bananas?

Some are always uncountable: > Celery is usually eaten raw.

• Some may be countable or uncountable, depending on whether you are thinking of them as plants or as food and on how they are prepared as food. If you are thinking of a fruit or vegetable as a plant you are usually talking about the whole fruit or vegetable, so it will be countable: Larger fruit or vegetables, that you do not eat whole, are uncountable as food:
 duck with spring cabbage

Others may be eaten whole (countable)...

- baked apples
- ► baby carrots

... or prepared in such a way that they are not eaten whole (uncountable in British English but still countable in American English):

- ▶ stewed apple (*BrE*) / stewed apples (*NAmE*)
- grated raw carrot (BrE) / grated raw carrots (NAmE)





Herbs, spices, nuts and cereals



Herbs, spices, nuts and cereals

