Food and Cooking Vocabulary List: 24 Words with Examples

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NAME

DATE

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example
to boil	to cook in very hot water	Boil the pasta for ten minutes.
to fry	to cook in hot oil	I fried the onions until they were golden.
to roast	to cook in an oven	We roast a chicken every Sunday.
to grill	to cook over or under direct heat	Grill the fish for five minutes on each side.
to chop	to cut into small pieces	Chop the garlic very finely.
to stir	to mix with a spoon	Stir the sauce so it doesn't burn.
a recipe	instructions for cooking a dish	This is my grandmother's recipe.
an ingredient	one of the foods in a dish	You only need four ingredients.
spicy	with a hot, strong taste	This curry is too spicy for me.
bland	without much taste	The soup was a bit bland, so I added salt.
sweet	tasting of sugar	I don't like sweet breakfasts.
sour	with a sharp taste like lemon	These grapes are very sour.
crunchy	hard and noisy when you bite it	I love crunchy vegetables.
tender	soft and easy to cut or eat	The meat was really tender.
a starter	a small first course	We shared a starter before the main course.
a main course	the biggest part of a meal	For the main course, I'll have the steak.
a dessert	a sweet dish at the end of a meal	Shall we order dessert?
the bill	the paper showing how much to pay	Could we have the bill, please?
to be vegetarian	to not eat meat or fish	My sister has been vegetarian for years.
a takeaway	food you buy and eat somewhere else	Let's get a takeaway tonight.
leftovers	food not eaten at a meal, kept for later	I had the leftovers for lunch.
homemade	made at home, not in a shop	Is this bread homemade?
to be full	to have eaten enough	No more, thanks. I'm full.
a portion	the amount of food for one person	The portions in that restaurant are huge.

Practice: complete with a word from the list

Use the correct form of the word or phrase.

1. _____ the potatoes for twenty minutes.
2. Could we have the _____, please?
3. This sauce has no flavour. It's really _____.
4. My _____ is a family secret.
5. I'll have soup as a _____ and fish as a main course.
6. We didn't cook tonight; we ordered a _____.
7. No dessert for me, thanks. I'm _____.
8. _____ the onions into small pieces.

Speaking

- Explain how to make a typical dish from your country.
- What is the best restaurant meal you have had recently?
- Do you prefer spicy, sweet or sour food?
- What do you usually do with leftovers?

My new words

Answer key

Practice: 1 Boil · 2 bill · 3 bland · 4 recipe · 5 starter · 6 takeaway · 7 full · 8 Chop