



# Taste and texture

Lesson code: S8QG-I588-SUXC

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

## 1 What does it taste like?

Match the foods on the left with their tastes on the right. What other foods can you think of for each adjective of taste?

- |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. honey         | a. bitter |
| 2. black coffee  | b. bland  |
| 3. white bread   | c. salty  |
| 4. curry sauce   | d. smoky  |
| 5. anchovies     | e. sour   |
| 6. fresh lemon   | f. spicy  |
| 7. smoked salmon | g. sweet  |

## 2 Pleasant and unpleasant tastes

Study the adjectives and put them into the correct category below.

appetizing	disgusting	horrible	mouthwatering	nasty	off
rancid	scrumptious	stale	tasteless	yummy	zesty

Positive adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_

Negative adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_

Now complete the definitions with the underlined words above. More than one answer may be possible.

1. I bought the bread this morning, but it already tastes \_\_\_\_\_ !
2. The meat has been out of the fridge for a week. If you eat it, it will taste \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. This soup is a bit \_\_\_\_\_ . I think you need to season it.
4. The chef uses lots of limes and lemons in his sauces. They have a very \_\_\_\_\_ flavour.
5. This is the best cake I've ever eaten. It's absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. The milk tastes a bit \_\_\_\_\_ . How long has it been out of the fridge?
7. This dish is \_\_\_\_\_ . You really know how to cook.
8. The meal at that canteen was \_\_\_\_\_ ! I'm never going back there again.



### 3 Texture

**Texture is the way food feels when you touch it or eat it. Study the sentences below and complete the definitions with the underlined adjectives.**

1. Yoghurt with melted chocolate on top is delicious and creamy.
2. I like to put crumbly cheese like feta into a salad.
3. French baguettes are usually soft on the inside and crunchy on the outside.
4. This pizza is so greasy — my hands are covered in oil!
5. Charlotte's cakes are usually very dry, but today she made a deliciously moist chocolate cake.
6. These oranges are a bit mushy. They must be old.
7. This steak is a bit tough. It's hard work to eat it!
8. This meat is really tender! It almost melts in your mouth!

**Now complete the definitions with the underlined words above.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): describes food that breaks into small pieces when you eat or touch it
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): slightly wet and soft
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): describes food that has a hard texture and makes a loud sound when chewed
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): smooth, soft and thick
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): very soft and wet (and usually food that is not normally so soft)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): describes food that tastes of oil and usually leaves oil behind
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): describes meat that is firm and not easy to chew
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.): describes meat that is very easy to chew or bite

### 4 Describe the food

**Work in pairs. Do the tasks below using adjectives from this lesson. Try to make your descriptions sound more precise and natural with qualifiers such as 'a bit', 'slightly', 'quite', 'rather', 'extremely', 'completely', 'absolutely', etc.**

1. Describe a pleasant meal, dish or food that you ate.
2. Describe an unpleasant meal, dish or food that you ate.
3. Have you ever eaten something very unusual? Describe its taste and texture.
4. What kind of food do you like/dislike in general?



**5 Taste idioms**

In pairs, study the underlined idioms below. Match them to the definitions.

1. Now you know how it feels when someone makes fun of you. You are getting a taste of your own medicine!
2. I feel that your jokes are in bad taste. Please try to be more polite.
3. It was a very nice restaurant, but the service leaves a bad taste in my mouth.
4. The wet weather is just a taste of things to come. It's going to get much worse.
5. I wasn't able to borrow the money I needed. It looks like all my plans are about to go sour.
6. If you intend to get married, you must be prepared to take the bitter with the sweet.
7. He could taste blood after the first day of the trial. He knew he would win in the end.

- a. accept the bad things as well as the good
- b. achieve a small victory, which makes you want or expect an even greater one
- c. a preview of what will happen in the future
- d. a sample of the unpleasantness that you have given other people
- e. leaves a bad feeling or memory
- f. rude, vulgar
- g. turn bad or unpleasant

Now give your own example of each idiom.



**1 What does it taste like?**

Students can work individually and check in pairs. The difference between 'bitter' and 'sour' may need to be clarified. 'Sour' is a sharp taste, indicative of acidity. 'Bitter' is a slightly more disagreeable taste.

1. g      2. a      3. b      4. f      5. c      6. e      7. d

**2 Pleasant and unpleasant tastes**

Have students look up unfamiliar words in a dictionary. Potentially difficult words: rancid (smelling or tasting unpleasant as a result of being old), stale (hard, musty or dry as a result of no longer being fresh), off (no longer fresh), zesty (having an agreeable sharp taste, e.g. with added citrus fruits), scrumptious (extremely delicious).

Positive adjectives: mouthwatering, scrumptious, appetizing, yummy, zesty

Negative adjectives: rancid, stale, off, disgusting, nasty, horrible, tasteless

Possible answers:

1. stale
2. rancid
3. tasteless
4. zesty
5. mouthwatering
6. off
7. yummy
8. nasty

**3 Texture**

- |            |           |            |           |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. crumbly | 2. moist  | 3. crunchy | 4. creamy |
| 5. mushy   | 6. greasy | 7. tough   | 8. tender |

**5 Taste idioms**

1. d      2. f      3. e      4. c      5. g      6. a      7. b

