10
tips
Nutrition Education Series


Based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

# Choose MyPlate 

Use MyPlate to build your healthy eating style and maintain it for a lifetime. Choose foods and beverages from each MyPlate food group. Make sure your choices are limited in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars. Start with small changes to make healthier choices you can enjoy.

1Find your healthy eating style Creating a healthy style means regularly eating a variety of foods to get the nutrients and calories you need. MyPlate's tips help you create your own healthy eating solutions-"MyWins."

2Make half your plate fruits and vegetables Eating colorful fruits and vegetables is important because they provide vitamins and minerals and most are low in calories.

3Focus on whole fruits
Choose whole fruits-fresh, frozen, dried, or canned in 100\% juice. Enjoy fruit with meals, as snacks, or as a dessert.


4Vary your veggies Try adding fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables to salads, sides, and main dishes. Choose a variety of colorful vegetables prepared in healthful ways: steamed, sauteed,
 roasted, or raw.

5Make half your grains whole grains Look for whole grains listed first or second on the ingredients list-try oatmeal, popcorn, whole-grain bread, and brown rice. Limit grain-based desserts and snacks, such as cakes, cookies, and pastries.


6Move to low-fat or fat-free milk or yogurt Choose low-fat or fat-free milk, yogurt, and soy beverages (soymilk) to cut back on Dairy saturated fat. Replace sour cream, cream, and regular cheese with low-fat yogurt, milk, and cheese.

7Vary your protein routine Mix up your protein foods to include seafood, beans and peas, unsalted nuts and seeds, soy products, eggs, and lean meats Protein
0 and poultry. Try main dishes made with beans or seafood like tuna salad or bean chili.

8Drink and eat beverages and food with less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars
Use the Nutrition Facts label and ingredients list to limit items high in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars. Choose vegetable oils instead of butter, and oil-based sauces and dips instead of ones with butter, cream, or cheese.

9Drink water instead of sugary drinks Water is calorie-free. Non-diet soda, energy or sports drinks, and other sugar-sweetened drinks contain a lot of calories from added sugars and have few nutrients.

10Everything you eat and drink matters The right mix of foods can help you be healthier now and into the future. Turn small changes into your "MyPlate, MyWins."

## EAT HEALTHY YOUR WAY

All the flavor - with healthy fats, less salt, and less sugar! Check off the tips you will try.

|  | Pick Healthy Fats and Still Keep the Flavor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Find Someone Who ...

| Eating Healthy Most of the Time + Physical Activity = Good Health |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| Has a homecooked dinner on most nights | Made half their plate fruit and vegetables today | Plays outside with their kids or grandchildren | Has fruit for dessert often |
| Chooses fatfree or low-fat milk and dairy products | Doesn't drink soda | Chooses wholegrain products when available | Engaged in aerobic exercise 3 times last week |
| Feels good after exercising | Works in the garden | Avoids salty foods like lunch meats or hot dogs | Takes a brisk walk on most days |
| Avoids oversized portions | Did exercises like push-ups and planks last week | Likes 100\% frozen fruit bars | Regularly reads the Nutrition Facts label |

## Vary Your Fruits and Veggies Choose fresh, frozen, and canned produce to meet your daily goals.

Choose from all the color groups. Check out what each color can do for you.


## Orange/Yellow

- Sharp vision
- A healthy heart
- Strength to fight off colds and illness
- Lower risk for some cancers


White

- A healthy heart



## Blue/Purple

- Good memory
- Healthy aging
- Lower risk for some cancers


## Eat different parts of the plant that appeal to your tastes.

## Seeds

Lima beans, pinto beans, pumpkin seeds, black beans, peas, dry split peas, corn

## Roots

Beets, onions, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, radishes, rutabaga, sweet potatoes, jicama

## Stems

Asparagus, bamboo shoots, bok choy, broccoli, celery, rhubarb

## Leaves

Brussels sprouts, parsley, cabbage, spinach, collards, turnip greens, kale, chard, lettuce, endive, watercress

Apples, avocados, grapes, cucumbers, bananas, pumpkins, bell peppers, dates, grapefruit, berries, eggplant, plums, melons, oranges, strawberries, tomatoes


## WHAT COUNTS AS 1 CUP?

Each food shown below counts as 1 cup of fruit or vegetables.

## FRUITS

Many people need to eat 2 cups from the fruits group each day.*


1 cup of chopped fruit like fruit cocktail counts as 1 cup

## - VEGETABLES

Many people need to eat $21 / 2$ cups from the vegetables group each day.*


2 cups of leafy greens like raw spinach counts as 1 cup


1 large sweet potato counts as 1 cup as 1 cup

1 large banana counts as 1 cup


32 red seedless grapes count as
1 cup


1 cup of cooked black beans counts as 1 cup

1 cup (8 ounces) of $100 \%$ fruit juice counts as 1 cup


1 cup of cooked vegetables like green beans counts as 1 cup

[^0]FRUIT JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC APPLES BLACKBERRIES BLUEBERRIES, HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRIES, WILD CANTALOUPES CRANBERRIES GRAPES PEACHES PEARS PLUMS RASPBERRIES RHUBARB STRAWBERRIES WATERMELON VEGETABLES ARUGULA ASPARAGUS BEANS (SNAP, WAX)

BEANS (DRY) BEETS BEET GREENS BOK CHOY BROCCOLI BRUSSEL SPROUTS CABBAGE CHINESE CABBAGE CARROTS CAULIFLOWER CELERY CHARD CORN (SWEET) CUCUMBERS EGGPLANT FIDDLEHEADS GARLIC KALE/COLLARDS LEEKS LETTUCE/SPINACH/MIXED GREENS MORELS MUNG BEANS MUSHROOMS (CULTIVATED) ONIONS (BULB) PARSLEY PARSNIP PEAS (SHELL) PEAS (EDIBLE POD) PEPPERS POTATOES PUMPKINS RADISHES RUTABAGA SCALLIONS SHALLOTS SQUASH (SUMMER, ZUCCHINI) SQUASH (WINTER) SWEET POTATOES SWISS CHARD TOMATOES TURNIP

DAIRY, CHEESE \& EGGS JAN FEB MARAPRMAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOVDEC

10 tips Nutrition Education Series

## MyPlate MyWins

Eating fruit provides health benefits. People who eat more vegetables and fruits as part of an overall healthy eating style are likely to have a reduced risk of some chronic diseases. Fruits provide nutrients vital for health, such as potassium, dietary fiber, vitamin C, and folate. Focus on whole fruits-fresh, canned, frozen, or dried-instead of juice. The sugar naturally found in fruit does not count as added sugar.

1Keep visible reminders Keep a bowl of whole fruit on the table, counter, or in the refrigerator.

2Experiment with flavor


Buy fresh fruits in season when they may be less expensive and at their peak flavor. Use fruits to sweeten a recipe instead of adding sugar.

3Think about variety
Buy fruits that are dried, frozen, and canned (in water or 100\% juice) as well as fresh, so that you always have a supply on hand.


4

## Don't forget the fiber

Make most of your choices whole or cut-up fruit, rather than juice, for the benefits that dietary fiber provides.

> 5Include fruit at breakfast
> At breakfast, top your cereal with bananas, peaches, or strawberries; add blueberries to pancakes; drink $100 \%$ orange or grapefruit juice. Or, try a fruit mixed with fat-free or low-fat yogurt.

6Try fruit at lunch At lunch, pack a tangerine, banana, or grapes to eat or choose fruits from a salad bar. Individual containers of fruits like peaches or applesauce are easy to carry and convenient for lunch.

## 7 Enjoy fruit at dinner, too

 At dinner, add crushed pineapple to coleslaw or include orange sections, dried cranberries, or grapes in a tossed salad. Try fruit salsa on top of fish.8Snack on fruits Fruits make great snacks. Try dried fruits mixed with nuts or whole fruits like apples. They are easy to carry and store well.

## 9

 Be a good role modelSet a good example for children by eating fruit every day with meals or as snacks.

10Keep fruits safe Rinse fruits before preparing or eating them. Under clean, running water, rub fruits briskly to remove dirt and surface microorganisms. After rinsing, dry with a clean towel.



It's easy to eat more vegetables! Eating vegetables is important because they provide vitamins and minerals and most are low in calories. To fit more vegetables in your meals, we're encouraging them as snacks as well, not just meals.

1discover fast ways to cook Cook fresh or frozen vegetables in the microwave for a quick-and-easy dish to add to any meal. Steam green beans, carrots, or broccoli in a bowl with a small amount of water in the microwave for a quick side dish.

2be ahead of the game Cut up a batch of bell peppers, carrots, or broccoli. Pre-package them to use when time is limited. You can enjoy them on a salad, with a hummus dip, or in a veggie wrap.


3choose vegetables rich in color Brighten your plate with vegetables that are red, orange, or dark green. They are full of vitamins and minerals. Try acorn squash, cherry tomatoes, sweet potatoes, or collard greens. They not only taste great but also are good for you, too.

4check the freezer aisle
Frozen vegetables are quick and easy to use and are just as nutritious as fresh veggies. Try adding frozen vegetables, such as corn, peas, green beans, or spinach to your favorite dish. Look for frozen vegetables without added sauces, gravies, butter, or cream.

5stock up on veggies
Canned vegetables are a great addition to any meal, so keep on hand canned tomatoes, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, mushrooms, and beets. Select those labeled as "reduced sodium," "low sodium," or "no salt added."
 look good but taste good, too.

7sip on some vegetable soup
Heat it and eat it. Try tomato, butternut squash, or garden vegetable soup. Look for reduced- or low-sodium soups.
Make your own soups with a low-sodium broth and your favorite vegetables.

# make half your grains whole grains 

## 10 tips to help you eat whole grains


#### Abstract

Any food made from wheat, rice, oats, cornmeal, barley, or another cereal grain is a grain product. Bread, pasta, oatmeal, breakfast cereals, tortillas, and grits are examples. Grains are divided into two subgroups, whole grains and refined grains. Whole grains contain the entire grain kernel-the bran, germ, and endosperm. People who eat whole grains as part of a healthy diet have a reduced risk of some chronic diseases.


## 4 make simple switches

To make half your grains whole grains, substitute a whole-grain product for a refined-grain product. For example, eat $100 \%$ whole-wheat bread or bagels instead of white bread or bagels, or brown rice instead of white rice.

## 2

 whole grains can be healthy snacks Popcorn, a whole grain, can be a healthy snack. Make it with little or no added salt or butter.Also, try $100 \%$ whole-wheat or rye crackers.

## 3

 save some timeCook extra brown rice or whole-wheat pasta when you have time. Refrigerate half to heat and serve later in the week as a quick side dish.

4mix it up with whole grains Use whole grains in mixed dishes, such as barley in vegetable soups or stews and bulgur wheat in casseroles or stir-fries. Try a quinoa salad or pilaf.

5try whole-wheat versions
For a change, try brown rice or whole-wheat pasta.
Try brown rice stuffing in baked green peppers or tomatoes, and whole-wheat macaroni in macaroni and cheese.


6bake up some whole-grain goodness Experiment by substituting buckwheat, millet, or oat flour for up to half of the flour in your favorite pancake or waffle recipes. To limit saturated fat and added sugars, top with fruit instead of butter and syrup.

## 7

 be a good role model for children Set a good example for children by serving and eating whole grains every day with meals or as snacks.
## 8

 check the label for fiber Use the Nutrition Facts label to check the fiber content of whole-grain foods. Good sources of fiber contain $10 \%$ to $19 \%$ of the Daily Value; excellent sources contain $20 \%$ or more.9know what to look for on the ingredients list Read the ingredients list and choose products that name a whole-
 grain ingredient first on the list. Look for "whole wheat," "brown rice," "bulgur," "buckwheat," "oatmeal," "whole-grain cornmeal," "whole oats," or "whole rye."

10be a smart shopper
The color of a food is not an indication that it is a whole-grain food. Foods labeled as "multi-grain," "stone-ground," "100\% wheat," "cracked wheat," "seven-grain," or "bran" are usually not $100 \%$ whole-grain products, and may not contain any whole grain.


# Myplater <br> MyWins Meal planning for one 

Cooking for one can be challenging-most recipes and sales are meant for more than one person. Use the tips below to help when you're cooking for one.


Freeze extra portions
Is the package of meat, poultry, or fish too big for one meal? Freeze the extra in single servings for easy use in future meals.


## Order at the deli counter

Deli counters offer small quantities. Ask for a quarter pound of roasted poultry and 2 scoops of bean salad or marinated vegetables.


Cook once, eat twice

Making chili? Store leftovers in small portions for an easy heat-and-eat meal. Serve over rice or a baked potato to change it up!


Use a toaster oven

Small, convenient, quick to heat! They're perfect for broiling fish fillets, roasting small vegetables, or heating up a bean burrito.


## Sip on smoothies

A smoothie for one is easy! Blend fat-free or low-fat yogurt or milk with ice, and fresh, frozen, canned, or even overripe fruits.


List more tips

## Reduce Your Sodium (Salt) Intake

- Read the Nutrition Facts labels to choose foods that are lower in sodium.
- When purchasing canned foods, select those labeled as "reduced sodium," "low sodium," or "no salt added." Rinse regular canned foods to remove some sodium.
- Gradually reduce the amount of sodium in your foods. Your taste for salt will change over time.
- Consume more fresh food and few processed foods that are higher in sodium.
- Eat more home-prepared foods, where you have more control over sodium, and use little or no salt or salt-containing seasonings when cooking or eating foods.
- When eating at restaurants, ask that salt not be added to your food or order lower-sodium options, if available.

| Tips for Using Herbs and Spices (Instead of Salt) |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Basil | Use in pastas, soups, salads, vegetables, fish, and meats. |
| Chili Powder | Use in soups, stews, salads, vegetables, and fish. |
| Cinnamon | Use in salads, vegetables, breads, and snacks. |
| Cloves | Use in soups, salads, and vegetables. |
| Dill Weed and Dill Seed | Use in fish, soups, salads, and vegetables. |
| Garlic | Use in soups, vegetables, meats, chicken, and stir-fries. |
| Ginger | Use in soups, salads, vegetables, meats, and stir-fries. |
| Marjoram | Use in soups, salads, vegetables, beef, fish, and chicken. |
| Nutmeg | Use in vegetables, meats, and snacks and in breads in place of sugar. |
| Oregano | Use in pastas, soups, salads, vegetables, meats, and chicken. |
| Parsley | Use in pastas, salads, vegetables, fish, and meats. |
| Rosemary | Use in pastas, salads, vegetables, fish, and meats. |
| Sage | Use in soups, salads, vegetables, meats, and chicken. |
| Thyme | Use in salads, vegetables, fish, and chicken. |

Note: To start, use small amounts of these herbs and spices to see whether you like them.
Resource: http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-style

## vary your protein routine 10 tips for choosing protein

Protein foods include both animal (meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs) and plant (beans, peas, soy products, nuts, and seeds) sources. We all need protein-but most Americans eat enough, and some eat more than they need. How much is enough? Most people, ages 9 and older, should eat 5 to 7 ounces* of protein foods each day depending on overall calorie needs.

1vary your protein food choices Eat a variety of foods from the Protein Foods Group each week. Experiment with main dishes made with beans or peas, nuts, soy, and seafood.

2choose seafood twice a week Eat seafood in place of meat or poultry twice a week. Select a variety of seafood-include some that are higher in oils and low in mercury, such as salmon, trout, and herring.

3make meat and poultry lean or low fat Choose lean or low-fat cuts of meat like round or sirloin and ground beef that is at least $90 \%$ lean. Trim or drain fat from meat and remove poultry skin.

4have an egg One egg a day, on average, doesn't increase risk for heart disease, so make eggs part of your weekly choices. Only the egg yolk contains saturated fat, so have as many egg whites as you want.

5eat plant protein foods more often Try beans and peas (kidney, pinto, black, or white beans; split peas; chickpeas; hummus), soy products (tofu, tempeh, veggie burgers), nuts, and seeds. They are naturally low in saturated fat and high in fiber.


[^1]6

## nuts and seeds

Choose unsalted nuts or seeds as a snack, on salads, or in main dishes to replace meat or poultry. Nuts and seeds are a concentrated source of calories, so eat small portions to keep calories in check.

7keep it tasty and healthy Try grilling, broiling, roasting, or baking-they don't add extra fat. Some lean meats need slow, moist cooking to be tender-try a slow cooker for them. Avoid breading meat or poultry, which adds calories.

8make a healthy sandwich Choose turkey, roast beef, canned tuna or salmon, or peanut butter for sandwiches. Many deli meats, such
 as regular bologna or salami, are high in fat and sodiummake them occasional treats only.

9

## think small when it comes to meat portions

Get the flavor you crave but in a smaller portion. Make or order a small turkey burger or a "petite" size steak.

10

## check the sodium

Check the Nutrition Facts label to limit sodium. Salt is added to many canned foods-including soups, vegetables, beans, and meats. Many processed meats-such as ham, sausage, and hot dogs-are high in sodium. Some fresh chicken, turkey, and pork are brined in a salt solution for flavor and tenderness.

## Know Your Fats Fats and oils are vital to our health — but not all fats are created equal.



## What you need to know about the fats we eat:

|  | Unsaturated | Saturated | Trans |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Are these fats good for you? | Yes. <br> - Lower "bad" cholesterol (LDL) <br> - Lower your risk of heart disease and stroke <br> - Provide fats your body needs, like omega-3 fatty acids | No. <br> - Raise your "bad" cholesterol (LDL) <br> - Raise your risk of heart disease and stroke | No. <br> - Raise your "bad" cholesterol (LDL) <br> - Lower your "good" cholesterol (HDL) <br> - Raise your risk of heart disease and stroke |
| Which foods contain these fats? | - Vegetable oils (like olive oil, canola oil, or sunflower oil) <br> - Avocados <br> - Peanut butter <br> - Fatty fish <br> - Many nuts and seeds | - Many animal foods (like fatty beef, poultry with skin, lard, cream, butter, cheese, and whole milk) <br> - Baked goods <br> - Fried foods <br> - Coconut oil | - Baked goods such as: <br> - Pastries <br> - Pie crusts <br> - Biscuits <br> - Cookies <br> - Crackers <br> - Stick margarines <br> - Shortenings |
| How much should you eat each day? | Most of the fat you eat should be unsaturated. | Limit the amount of saturated fats you eat each day. | Avoid trans fats. |

## Use these steps to limit unhealthy fats:

- For protein, choose lean cuts of meat or poultry. Or, choose non-meat proteins like fish, beans, lentils, nuts, and seeds.
- Cook meats by roasting, grilling, or stir-frying. Avoid deep-frying.
- Read labels. Choose foods with less saturated fat and no trans fats.
- Read the ingredients list. Avoid foods that list "hydrogenated" or "partially hydrogenated" oils.
- Watch out for baked goods, crackers, margarines, and shortenings. They often contain trans fat.


[^0]:    *The amounts are for a person on a 2,000-calorie daily food plan. The amount of fruits and vegetables may vary depending on the age, gender, and physical activity level of each person.

    To find the right amount of fruits and vegetables for members of your family, visit http://choosemyplate.gov/supertracker-tools/daily-food-plans.html or SuperTracker.usda.gov.

[^1]:    * What counts as an ounce of protein foods? 1 ounce lean meat, poultry, or seafood; 1 egg; $1 / 4$ cup cooked beans or peas; $1 / 2$ ounce nuts or seeds; or 1 tablespoon peanut butter.

