Fruit and Vegetables

The names, how to buy and describe them, and the words of growers, cooks and writers, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 10

a bunch of grapes · ripe and juicy · low-hanging fruit

Fruit *A1–A2*

apple	banana
orange	lemon
pear	peach
cherry	strawberry
grape	watermelon
pineapple	tomato
blueberry	kiwi fruit

fruit is usually uncountable: a lot of fruit (not fruits)

Vegetables *A1–A2*

potato	carrot
onion	cauliflower
lettuce	cucumber
pepper	broccoli
garlic	mushroom
peas	cabbage
pumpkin	sweetcorn

-o → -oes: potatoes, tomatoes · -y → -ies: cherries

Parts and freshness *B1–B2*

Parts: skin, peel, core, stone, pip, seed, pod, stalk, leaf

Amounts: a bunch of grapes, a head of lettuce, a clove of garlic, a punnet of raspberries

Freshness: ripe · unripe · overripe · bruised · rotten · go off

Farm and kitchen: grow, pick, harvest, ripen, dig up · peel, core, slice, grate

Idioms: as cool as a cucumber, full of beans, a couch potato, go bananas, the apple of my eye

Describing: sweet, sour, bitter, juicy, crunchy, soft, fresh, frozen, tinned (US canned)

*These pears are **bruised**, so they'll **go off** soon. The strawberries were **picked** this morning.*

You pick fruit; you don't collect it

Precise and figurative *C1–C2*

Taste and texture: crisp, succulent, tart, astringent, mealy · floury and waxy potatoes

The trade: produce, perishable, shelf life, glut, yield, wonky veg

Growers: cultivar, heritage (heirloom) variety, graft, rootstock, orchard, polytunnel

Metaphors: low-hanging fruit, bear fruit, the fruits of your labour, cherry-pick, sour grapes, a bad apple, apples and oranges

Collocations: a bumper crop, a crop failure, in season, out of season, locally grown, freshly picked

*After years of trials, the new cultivar **bore fruit**: a **bumper crop** with a long **shelf life**.*

PRO-duce (noun) · pro-DUCE (verb)

At the market

- *A kilo of potatoes, please.*
- *How much are the strawberries?*
- *How many lemons have you got?*
- *They're sweet, juicy and fresh.*

Common mistakes

- ~~I eat many fruits.~~ → I eat **a lot of fruit**.
- ~~collect apples~~ → **pick** apples.
- *pepper* (vegetable) · *black pepper* (spice)
- ~~a banana green~~ → a **green**, **unripe** banana

Words with a past

- **pea**: from *pease*, mistaken for a plural
- **pineapple**: first meant a pine cone
- **lettuce**: Latin *lac*, milk
- **cultivar**: cultivated + variety (1923)

My new words

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