In the Kitchen

Kitchen objects, cooking verbs and recipes, and the words of cooks, food writers and food scientists, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 11

put the kettle on · a pinch of salt · spill the beans

The kitchen *A1–A2*

cooker	oven
fridge	freezer
sink	kettle
microwave	toaster
dishwasher	cupboard
saucepan	frying pan
cook, cut	mix, pour

a cook is a person · a cooker is a machine

On the table *A1–A2*

plate	bowl
cup	mug
glass	knife
fork	spoon
teaspoon	teapot
jar	salt and pepper
boil, fry	bake, wash

knife → knives · a cup of tea · a glass of water

Verbs, tools and safety *B1–B2*

Cutting: chop, slice, dice, grate, peel

Cooking: stir, whisk, simmer, roast, grill, steam, drain, season

Tools: a whisk, a colander, a grater, a peeler, a ladle, a chopping board, a baking tray

Amounts: a tablespoon, a teaspoon, a pinch of salt, a dash of sauce, a splash of milk

Phrasal verbs: turn on / off, heat up, cut up, boil over, pour in, stir in

Safety: wash your hands, keep raw meat separate, turn pan handles in, wipe up spills, oven gloves

__Dice__ the onion, __pour in__ the stock and let it __simmer__. Watch the potatoes: they often __boil over__.

You grill under the heat and roast in the oven

Technique and metaphor *C1–C2*

Techniques: sauté, sear, braise, poach, blanch, reduce, deglaze, fold, knead, marinate

Recipe English: season to taste, until golden, set aside, in batches, bring to the boil

Food writing: silky, unctuous, robust, caramelised, charred

Metaphors: too many cooks, a recipe for disaster, cook the books, half-baked, in hot water, simmer down, on the back burner, spill the beans, stir things up

__Sear__ the lamb __in batches__, then __deglaze__ the pan with wine and __reduce__ it by half.

Searing adds flavour; it does not seal in juices

In the kitchen

- *Can I put the kettle on?*
- *Turn on the oven at 200°C.*
- *Pass me a frying pan, please.*
- *Add a pinch of salt.*

Common mistakes

- ~~He is a good cooker.~~ → He is a good **cook**.
- ~~two knifes~~ → two **knives**
- ~~Remove the soup.~~ → **Stir** the soup.
- ~~a cup of water~~ → a **glass** of water

Words with a past

- **pantry**: a room for bread (French *pain*)
- **cutlery**: Latin *cultellus*, a small knife
- **colander**: Latin *colare*, to strain
- **sauté**: French for "jumped"

My new words

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