

One of the joys of life is eating well. There are so many varieties of food and so many delicious ways to prepare it that most people look forward to meals eagerly. Whether one is having a fancy six-course dinner in an elegant restaurant, a quick bite in a café, or a festive meal prepared at home for a holiday, eating can be a delight. In this lesson you will learn words that refer to eating and food.

WORD LIST

bland
culinary
delectable
devour
edible
epicure
morsel
pungent
quaff
ravenous

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **bland** (blānd) *adjective* a. Mild; soothing; not irritating: *a bland diet.*
 b. Dull; lacking in interest: *a bland personality.* (From the Latin word *blandus*, meaning "soothing")

1. _____

Related Words *blandly* *adverb*; *blandness* *noun*

Example Joaquin's chili is so *bland* that I have to add pepper to make it tasty.

2. **culinary** (kŭl'ə-nēr'ē, kyŏŏ'lə-nēr'ē) *adjective* Pertaining to cooking or the kitchen. (From the Latin word *culina*, meaning "kitchen")

2. _____

Example Boris is improving his *culinary* skills by fixing breakfast for his family each morning.

3. **delectable** (dĭ-lĕk'tə-bəl) *adjective* Greatly pleasing, especially to the sense of taste; delicious; delightful. (From the Latin word *delectare*, meaning "to delight")

3. _____

Example Philbricks enjoyed the *delectable* food in the Virgin Islands.

4. **devour** (dĭ-vour') *trans. verb* a. To eat up greedily; swallow; engulf.
 b. To consume enthusiastically: *to devour books.* (From the Latin word *devorare*, meaning "to swallow up")

4. _____

Example Hungry animals *devour* their food.

5. **edible** (ĕd'ə-bəl) *adjective* Suitable for eating; capable of being eaten. (From the Latin word *edere*, meaning "to eat") 5. _____
Example A cashew nut is *edible*; a wing nut is not.
6. **epicure** (ĕp'ī-kyōor') *noun* A person with refined tastes in food and drink; a gourmet. (From *Epicurus*, the name of an early Greek philosopher) 6. _____
Related Word *epicurean adjective*
Example Eloise is a notable *epicure* with a particular fondness for pheasant and wild rice.
7. **morsel** (môr'səl) *noun* a. A bite or small amount of food. b. A small piece; a tidbit. (From the Latin word *morsum*, meaning "a piece bitten off") 7. _____
Example Brian's mother always has a few choice *morsels* for us to nibble on after school.
8. **pungent** (pün'jənt) *adjective* Sharp; strong; penetrating; producing a sharp sensation, usually of taste or smell. (From the Latin word *pungere*, meaning "to sting") 8. _____
Related Words *pungency noun; pungently adverb*
Example Garlic, cayenne pepper, and coriander are *pungent* spices.
9. **quaff** (kwŏf, kwăf, kwôf) *trans. verb* To drink heartily and deeply of. 9. _____
Example The thirsty girls *quaffed* the water happily after their three-mile run.
10. **ravenous** (răv'ə-nəs) *adjective* Extremely hungry. (From the Old French word *raviner*, meaning "to take by force") 10. _____
Related Word *ravenously adverb*
Example Dr. von der Vogelweide tells me that teenagers are often *ravenous* because they are growing so fast.