

## Reading a recipe aloud

### Reading aloud: reading a recipe

Reading aloud is shown to improve confidence and understanding. These activities have been designed to help you practise your reading and speaking skills in an authentic way.

Take a few minutes to think about the following questions:

- When you cook, do you usually follow a recipe?
- Do you like watching cookery programmes on TV?
- Have you ever read a recipe aloud to someone else?

**On the next page, there is a recipe for vegetable curry.**

**Practise reading the recipe aloud.**

**If you would like more practice to improve how you read a recipe aloud, then do activities 1-6.**



## Reading a recipe aloud

**Vegetable curry (serves 5-6)****Ingredients**

3 tbsp (of)\* vegetable oil  
2 onions  
4 cloves (of) garlic  
1 tbsp of root ginger  
3tbsp of tomato puree  
2 carrots  
2 sweet potatoes  
2 peppers (red or yellow)  
1 large courgette  
1 tin (of) chickpeas  
200g red lentils  
1 large handful (of) sultanas  
½ (a) tsp (of) turmeric  
½ (a) tsp (of) crushed chillies  
1 tsp (of) ground cumin  
1 tsp (of) ground coriander  
750ml (of) hot vegetable stock  
4 large tomatoes  
3tsp (of) garam masala  
Salt and pepper  
50g (of) frozen peas  
(and) 1 handful (of) fresh coriander

**Method**

Firstly, heat the oil in a large pan.

Chop the onions, crush the garlic, and peel and grate the ginger. Add these ingredients to the pan and fry for about five minutes.

Next, chop the sweet potato and slice the carrots, peppers and courgettes. Add these ingredients to the pan and fry for a further 10 minutes.

Then, add the sultanas, turmeric, cumin, ground coriander and stock. Rinse and drain the lentils and the chickpeas and add to the pan.

Chop the tomatoes and stir them into the other ingredients.

After that, cover the pan with a lid, and simmer for about 25 minutes.

Finally, add the peas and garam masala, and season to taste. Simmer uncovered for about 20 minutes.

Chop the fresh coriander and add it to the curry before serving.

*\*The words in brackets (a, and, of) would not usually be included in the ingredients section of a recipe, although they are normally said when the ingredients are read aloud.*

Tbsp = tablespoon    tps= teaspoon



Reading a recipe aloud

**Activity 1** Match the pictures to the words.

1. vegetable oil	a. 
2. cloves of garlic	b. 
3. root ginger	c. 
4. tomato puree	d. 
5. fresh coriander	e. 
6. sweet potatoes	f. 
7. peppers	g. 
8. a courgette	h. 
9. chickpeas	i. 
10. red lentils	j. 
11. sultanas	k. 
12. tomatoes	l. 
13. salt and pepper	m. 

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**Activity 2** Match the cooking instructions to their definitions.

cooking instruction	definition
1. to chop	a. to rub food against a grater (kitchen tool)
2. to crush	b. to mix food by moving a spoon round and round in it
3. to peel	c. to remove liquid from something
4. to grate	d. to add salt and pepper to food that you are cooking
5. to fry	e. to cut something into small pieces
6. to slice	f. to cook something in hot oil or fat
7. to drain	g. to gently cook a liquid so that it is very hot
8. to stir	h. to press something so hard so that it breaks
9. to simmer	i. to take the skin off fruit or vegetables
10. to season	j. to cut food into thin, flat pieces

## Reading a recipe aloud

### Activity 3

In natural spoken English, we don't pronounce each syllable with the same emphasis (word stress).

For example, the word 'ingredients' has four syllables and the main stress is on the second syllable.

The stress pattern for 'ingredients' is: o O o o

Below are some words taken from the recipe. Put them in the correct column, according to their stress pattern.

simmer	vegetable	tomatoes	courgette	coriander
potatoes	turmeric	sultanas	uncovered	season

o O o	O o o	o o O o	o O	O o

## Reading a recipe aloud

### Activity 4

In spoken English, we often add extra sounds between words to link our words together. As a result, when you listen to a continuous stream of sound of English, it can be very difficult to identify the individual words.

These extra linking sounds are:

- /r/ e.g. Where<sup>/r/</sup> are you?
- /j/ e.g. My<sup>/j/</sup> eyes are blue.
- /w/ e.g. I'm going to<sup>/w/</sup> Africa.

In this activity, you will focus on some of the language in the recipe, and identify the linking sounds between individual words. Look at the question on the left and tick the correct linking sound. The first one has been done for you.

Cooking instruction	/r/	/w/	/j/
1. Which sound can you hear between: 'the ... oil' ? "Firstly, heat the oil in a large pan."			✓
2. Which sound can you hear between: 'the ... onions' ? "Chop the onions, crush the garlic and grate the ginger."			
3. Which sound can you hear between: 'for .... about' ? "Add these ingredients to the pan and fry for about five minutes."			
4. Which sound can you hear between: 'potato ... and' ? "Next, chop the sweet potato and slice the carrots."			
5. Which sound can you hear between: 'for ... a' ? "Add these ingredients to the pan and fry for a further 10 minutes."			
6. Which sound can you hear between: 'the ... other' ? "Chop the tomatoes and stir them into the other ingredients."			
7. Which sound can you hear between: 'for ... about' ? "After that, cover the pan with a lid, and simmer for about 25 minutes."			
8. Which sound can you hear between: 'simmer ... uncovered' ? "Simmer uncovered for about 20 minutes."			
9. Which sound can you hear between: 'coriander ... and' ? "Chop the fresh coriander and add it to the curry before serving."			

## Reading a recipe aloud

**Activity 5**

In this activity, you will put words in the right order to make phrases and sentences from the recipe.

Practise saying the phrases and sentences aloud at the same time.

1. heat/ oil.../ Firstly,/ the
2. ingredients/ Add/ to/ pan./ the/ these
3. chop/ potatoes.../ Next, / sweet/ the
4. sultanas.../ add/ Then,/ the
5. and/ Rinse/ lentils.../ drain/ and/ the
6. them.../ tomatoes/ and/ stir/ Chop/ the
7. pan.../ the/ that,/ cover/ After
8. peas/ add/ garam masala/ the/ and/ Finally,
9. about/ uncovered/ for/ minutes./ Simmer/ 20
10. Chop/ add/ coriander/ and/ it.../ the

**Activity 6**

Finally, you will think about the order of the recipe. To help you, think about sequencing words and phrases, such as *Firstly*, *next*, *after that*, etc. Try to read each stage as you go, paying particular attention to word stress and linking sounds.

**Put the different parts of the recipe in the correct order.**

- a. Chop the coriander and add it to the curry before serving.
- b. Firstly, heat the oil in a large pan.
- c. Finally, add the peas and garam masala, and season to taste. Simmer uncovered for about 20 minutes.
- d. Next, chop the sweet potatoes and slice the carrots, peppers and courgettes. Add these ingredients to the pan and fry for a further 10 minutes.
- e. Then, add the sultanas, turmeric, cumin, coriander and stock. Rinse and drain the lentils and the chickpeas and add to the pan.
- f. After that, cover the pan with a lid, and simmer for about 25 minutes.
- g. Chop the onions, crush the garlic and grate the ginger. Add these ingredients to the pan and fry for about 5 minutes.
- h. Chop the tomatoes and stir them into the other ingredients.



## Reading a recipe aloud

### Over to you:

- How about having a go at reading a recipe to someone you know?
- You could explain how to make Callie's vegetable curry or choose one of your own recipes.

You may want to record yourself and then email the audio of your recipe to a friend; it's a great way to share recipes!

To record yourself speaking, visit: [www.vocaroo.com](http://www.vocaroo.com)



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## Answers

## Activity 1

1. b
2. e
3. h
4. i
5. l
6. k
7. a
8. c
9. d
10. g
11. m
12. j
13. f

## Activity 2

1. e
2. h
3. i
4. a
5. f
6. j
7. c
8. b
9. g
10. d

## Activity 3

- o O o: potatoes, tomatoes,  
sultanas, uncovered
- O o o: vegetable, turmeric
- o o O o: coriander
- o O: courgette
- O o season, simmer

## Activity 4

1. /r/
2. /j/
3. /r/
4. /w/
5. /r/
6. /j/
7. /r/
8. /r/
9. /r/

## Activity 5

1. Firstly, heat the oil...
2. Add these ingredients to the pan.
3. Next, chop the sweet potatoes...
4. Then, add the sultanas...
5. Rinse and drain the lentils...
6. Chop the tomatoes and stir them...
7. After that, cover the pan...
8. Finally, add the peas and garam masala...
9. Simmer uncovered for about 20 minutes.
10. Chop the coriander and add it...

## Activity 6

b, g, d, e, h, f, c, a