# Meals and dishes Making healthy choices 

Eating a wide variety of nourishing foods provides the energy and nutrients you need every day to stay healthy.



The Food Pyramid shows how much of what you eat overall should come from each shelf to achieve a healthy, balanced diet.


## Vegetables, salad and fruit

Foods from this shelf include all fruit and vegetables, such as apples, pears, oranges, bananas, grapes, strawberries, mango, pineapple, raisins, broccoli, courgettes, cabbage, peas, sweetcorn, lettuce, tomatoes and carrots.

## Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice

Foods from this shelf include bread - including soda bread, rye bread, pitta, flour tortilla, baguettes, chapatti and bagels - rice, potatoes, breakfast cereals, oats, pasta, noodles, maize, cornmeal, polenta, millet, spelt, couscous, bulgur wheat, pearl barley, yams and plantains.

## Milk, yogurt and cheese

Foods in this group include milk, hard cheese, semi-hard cheese, soft cheese, yogurt and yogurt drinks.

## Meat, poultry, fish, eggs, beans and nuts

Foods from this shelf include:

- Meat, poultry and game, including lamb, beef, pork, chicken, bacon, sausages and burgers
- White fish, including haddock, plaice, pollack, coley and cod
- Oilyfish, including mackerel, sardines, trout, salmon and whitebait
- Shellfish, including prawns, mussels, crab and squid
- Eggs, nuts, beans and other pulses, including lentils, chickpeas, baked beans, kidney beans and butterbeans


## Fats, spreads and oils

Foods from this shelf include unsaturated oils including vegetable oil, rapeseed oil, reduced fat spreads, olive oil and sunflower oil. Soft spreads made from unsaturated oils. Mayonnaise and oil based salad dressing.

## Foods and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt

Foods from this shelf include crisps, chocolate, ice cream, cakes, sugary drinks and biscuits.

## We need more from some food shelves than others. Try to eat:

- Plenty of fruit and vegetables
- Plenty of bread, rice, potatoes, pasta and cereals - going for the wholegrain varieties whenever you can
- Some milk, cheese and yogurt - choose lower fat varieties where possible
- Some meat, poultry, eggs, beans and nuts - choose lower fat varieties where possible
- A very small amount of fats and oils


## Meals and dishes can combine foods from many different shelves on the Food Pyramid. Here are some examples of meals that combine different foods.

| Breakfast | Food | Food Pyramid Shelf |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Milk, cereal, fruit | Milk | Milk, yogurt and cheese |
|  | Wholemeal breakfast biscuits | Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice |
|  | Strawberries | Vegetables, salad and fruit |
|  |  |  |


| Lunch | Food | Food Pyramid Shelf |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Chicken sandwich with low-fat <br> yogurt drink | Low-fat yogurt drink | Milk, yogurt and cheese |
|  | Wholemeal bread | Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice |
|  | Lettuce and tomatoes | Vegetables, salad and fruit |
|  | Chicken | Meat, poultry, fish, eggs, beans and nuts |
|  |  |  |



| Lunch | Food | Food Pyramid Shelf |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tuna and sweetcorn in pitta <br> bread and orange juice | Orange juice, lettuce, sweetcorn | Vegetables, salad and fruit |
|  | Wholemeal pitta bread | Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice |
|  | Tuna | Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins |



| Evening Meal | Food | Food Pyramid Shelf |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Spagetti bolognese and milk | Milk | Milk, yogurt and cheese |
|  | Pasta | Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice |
|  | Lean mince | Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins |
|  | Carrots, onion, celery, tinned <br> tomatoes cooked in sauce | Vegetables, salad and fruit |
|  |  |  |


| Evening Meal | Food | Food Pyramid Shelf |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Beef burger, potatoes, peas and milk | Milk | Milk, yogurt and cheese |
|  | Potatoes | Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice |
|  | Lean mince | Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins |
|  | Peas | Vegetables, salad and fruit |
|  |  |  |

