



# Eating foods away from home

**Full-service and fast-food restaurants, convenience stores, and grocery stores offer a variety of meal options.** Typically, these meals are higher in calories, saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars than the food you prepare at home. Think about ways to make healthier choices when eating food away from home.

## 1 Consider your drink

Choose water, unsweetened tea, and other drinks without added sugars to complement your meal. If you drink alcohol, choose drinks lower in added sugars and be aware of the alcohol content of your beverage. Keep in mind that many coffee drinks may be high in saturated fat and added sugar.

## 2 Savor a salad

Start your meal with a salad packed with vegetables to help you feel satisfied sooner. Ask for dressing on the side and use a small amount of it.



## 3 Share a dish

Share a dish with a friend or family member. Or, ask the server to pack up half of your entree before it comes to the table to control the amount you eat.

## 4 Customize your meal

Order a side dish or an appetizer-sized portion instead of a regular entree. They're usually served on smaller plates and in smaller amounts.

## 5 Pack your snack

Pack fruit, sliced vegetables, low-fat string cheese, or unsalted nuts to eat during road trips or long commutes. No need to stop for other food when these snacks are ready-to-eat.



## 6 Fill your plate with vegetables and fruit

Stir-fries, kabobs, or vegetarian menu items usually have more vegetables. Select fruits as a side dish or dessert.

## 7 Compare the calories, fat, and sodium

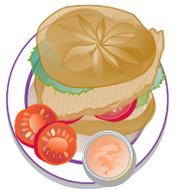
Many menus now include nutrition information. Look for items that are lower in calories, saturated fat, and sodium. Check with your server if you don't see them on the menu. For more information, check [www.FDA.gov](http://www.FDA.gov).

## 8 Pass on the buffet

Have an item from the menu and avoid the "all-you-can-eat" buffet. Steamed, grilled, or broiled dishes have fewer calories than foods that are fried in oil or cooked in butter.

## 9 Get your whole grains

Request 100% whole-wheat breads, rolls, and pasta when choosing sandwiches, burgers, or main dishes.



## 10 Quit the "clean your plate club"

You don't have to eat everything on your plate. Take leftovers home and refrigerate within 2 hours. Leftovers in the refrigerator are safe to eat for about 3 to 4 days.