Food: a recipe for disaster

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each cooking-mishap word with its meaning.

1 burnt ____	**a** cooked for too long
2 overcooked ____	**b** cooked for too little time and not safe to eat
3 undercooked ____	**c** blackened or burned by too much heat
4 bland ____	**d** having very little flavour
5 ruined ____	**e** completely spoiled and unusable
6 spoiled ____	**f** gone bad and no longer good to eat
7 mess up ____	**g** to do something badly by mistake
8 inedible ____	**h** not fit to be eaten
9 disaster ____	**i** a complete failure or disastrous event
10 salvage ____	**j** to save something from being completely ruined

2 Choose the correct form.

1 The toast was burnt / burn black.
2 The soup tasted very bland / blandly.
3 I mess up / messed up the recipe.
4 The meat was undercooked / undercook.
5 We tried to salvage / salvaging the dinner.
6 The milk had spoiled / spoil in the heat.
7 That was a real disaster / desaster.
8 The fish was completely / very inedible.

3 Complete the descriptions with words from the box.

bland | burnt | disaster | inedible | mess up | overcooked | ruined | salvage

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Story A: I tried to make dinner, but I 1 _____ the recipe completely. The chicken was 2 _____ on the outside but somehow still raw inside.
Story B: The pasta was 3 _____, turning to mush, and the sauce was so 4 _____ that no one wanted to eat it.
Story C: The whole meal was a 5 _____. We tried to 6 _____ it by adding more spices, but it stayed almost 7 _____. Honestly, the dinner was completely 8 _____.

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4 Match each word with its opposite.

1 burnt ____	**a** spoiled
2 bland ____	**b** tasty
3 overcooked ____	**c** undercooked
4 fresh ____	**d** perfectly cooked
5 delicious ____	**e** disgusting
6 ruined ____	**f** flawless
7 perfect ____	**g** inedible
8 edible ____	**h** saved

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

A dinner party disaster

Marko decided to cook dinner for his friends for the first time. He accidentally burnt the garlic bread and overcooked the pasta until it turned to mush. The sauce was bland because he forgot to add salt. He tried to salvage the meal by ordering pizza instead, and everyone laughed about the disaster together. Despite the mess-up, it turned into a fun evening.

1 Marko cooked dinner for his friends. T / F

2 The garlic bread was perfect. T / F

3 The pasta was undercooked. T / F

4 The sauce had plenty of flavour. T / F

5 He ordered pizza to save the evening. T / F

6 Everyone had a bad time. T / F

6 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition (in, on, with, to).

1 The bread burnt _____ the oven.

2 I forgot _____ add salt.

3 We tried _____ save the dinner.

4 The dish was ruined _____ too much salt.

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 70-90 word story about a time a meal went wrong (real or imaginary). Include what happened and how it was solved.

[ ] Use at least eight target words. [ ] Use past tenses accurately. [ ] Keep the story clear and light-hearted.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Cooking-mishap words

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

2 Choose the correct form

1 burnt 2 bland 3 messed up 4 undercooked 5 salvage 6 spoiled 7 disaster 8 completely

3 Descriptions

1 messed up 2 burnt 3 overcooked 4 bland 5 disaster 6 salvage 7 inedible 8 ruined

4 Opposites

1 h 2 b 3 c 4 a 5 e 6 d 7 g 8 g... note: fix 8
1 h 2 b 3 c 4 a 5 e 6 d 7 f 8 g

5 Reading

1 T
2 F - it was burnt.
3 F - it was overcooked.
4 F - it was bland.
5 T
6 F - it was fun.

6 Prepositions

1 in 2 to 3 to 4 with

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check clear organisation, accurate forms and light-hearted wording.