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#120 Baking Vocabulary in English

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Hi everyone! I am Georgiana, founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](https://speakenglishpodcast.com). My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

In today's lesson, I'll talk about **baking**. I'll teach you how to bake my favorite blueberry muffins. So if you want to enrich your **English vocabulary and try out my favorite muffin recipe**, I suggest that you continue listening.

And with a point of view lesson, you will improve your English grammar intuitively without memorizing any rules.

Unbelievable! Today is episode 120. That means you get over 120 free English lessons. If my podcast helps you, be sure to share it with your friends. That would mean a lot to me. Thank you.

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Ok, let's start!

I don't know about you, but I love baking. And the easiest recipe I know, and the one my friends like best, is **blueberry muffins**.

People are very used to eating all sorts of pastries that contain an incredible amount of sugar, yet one of the things they love most about my cakes is the fact that I add very little sugar.

That's why I started baking. I'm not too fond of pies with a lot of sugar either.

So today, I'm going to share with you my **blueberry muffin recipe**.

Are you excited?

Oh, I'm sure that if you try these muffins, you're gonna love them.

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If you've never heard the word **muffin**, then you probably know the term **cupcake**. A **cupcake** is very similar to a muffin, but it is always sweet and often covered with **frosting**.

Wait a minute, what's **frosting**?

It's a sweet mixture that we use to decorate and fill cakes.

Muffins, on the other hand, are generally considered healthier than cupcakes. They are usually made with whole wheat flour and loaded with fruit.

It is not easy to describe how a **muffin** looks, but the only real difference between a slice of cake and a muffin is the shape. But just to give you an idea, a muffin looks like an oversized mushroom.



It's very easy to make them. It doesn't matter if you're a master chef or if you never set foot in the **kitchen**. And all you need is 30 minutes, 10 minutes of preparation, and cook for 20 minutes.

And don't worry because you won't even need a **food processor**.

A **food processor** is an electric machine that cuts, slices, and mixes food quickly. But in this case, you will only need a **mixing bowl**.

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Before we start cooking, let's take a look at the ingredients we need for the muffins.

This is an essential step. You have to make sure you have all the ingredients ready before you start baking. This will speed up the preparation and ensure that no ingredients are missing.

This has happened to me more than once. The other day I wanted to make a carrot cake, and I was pretty sure I had some carrots in the refrigerator. It turns out that there weren't any carrots in the fridge, so I had to shop for groceries, and that ruined the moment.

Before we go any further, let's get a little better understanding of how we measure the ingredients.

In the US, we use **cups**, **tablespoons**, and **teaspoons** in our recipes.

To follow this recipe, you'll need some **measuring cups** and spoons. You can get them online or in your local store.

Let's see how this works:

One cup is 8 ounces or 236 ml.

One tablespoon is 15 ml.

One teaspoon is 5 ml.

But what if we want to use half a cup or one-third of a cup? That's a little more confusing for you. So let's take a look at some examples:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup - one-half/half (**half a cup**)

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup - one-third (**one-third of a cup**)

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup - **two-thirds of a cup**

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup - a quarter (**a quarter of a cup**)

$\frac{2}{4}$ cup - two quarters (**two-quarters of a cup**)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup - (**three-quarters of a cup**)

$\frac{1}{5}$ cup - (**one-fifth of a cup**)

$\frac{2}{5}$ cup - (**two-fifths of a cup**)

$\frac{3}{5}$ cup - (**three-fifths of a cup**)

$\frac{4}{5}$ cup - (**four-fifths of a cup**)

These are the ingredients for the **blueberry muffins**:

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1 1/2 (**one and a half**) cups of all-purpose flour (195 grams)
3/4 (**three-quarters** of a) cup of granulated sugar (150 grams)
Two teaspoons of baking powder (10 grams)
1/4 (**a quarter** of a) teaspoon of fine sea salt (1.42 grams)
1/3 (**one-third of a**) cup of oil (80ml)
One large egg
1/2 (**half**) a cup of milk (120ml)
1 1/2 (**one and a half**) teaspoons of vanilla extract (7.5 grams)
1 cup of fresh or frozen blueberries; (128 g)

I usually use frozen blueberries, by the way.

If you use frozen fruit, do not thaw it (don't defrost).

With these quantities, you will get eight large muffins, ten standard muffins, or 20 mini muffins.
First, heat the oven to 400° Fahrenheit or 204° Celsius.

You'll need a **muffin tin** or a **muffin tray** and some **paper liners** or **paper baking cups**.

Add the paper liners or paper baking cups in the muffin tray. For the large muffins, you'll need eight paper liners, and for the medium ones, ten.

To make sure the muffins bake evenly, fill the remaining cups with 1 or 2 tablespoons of water.

HOW TO MAKE THE BATTER?

By the way, the **batter** is the mixture of ingredients used in baking.

To prepare the batter, you'll need to whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl.

When you **whisk** something, you stir it quickly and lightly with a kitchen tool, which is also called a whisk. And if you don't have a whisk, just use a fork.

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Add the oil, the egg, and then the milk. Pour in the vanilla extract and whisk to combine.

Add the liquid mixture to the bowl of dry ingredients. Then use a fork or a whisk to combine. After that, add the blueberries.

How do we bake the muffins?

We will fill 8 to 10 muffin cups until the batter reaches the top of the baking paper cups. We will bake the muffins for 15 to 20 minutes at 400° Fahrenheit or 204° Celsius.

The mini muffins take about 10 minutes to bake. I use a mini muffin tray that allows me to bake up to 24 mini muffins.

When we take the muffins out of the oven, we'll place them on a **cooling rack** until they get cold.

What's a cooling rack?

We use a cooling rack or wire rack to allow the air to circulate freely to cool the muffins. That prevents them from getting soggy from condensation.

Once the muffins are cooled, we place them in a plastic bag, seal, and store at room temperature for 2 to 3 days.

That's it! Now you can enjoy some delicious blueberry muffins.

Just let me know if you tried my recipe. Please write a comment on my website, youtube, Instagram, or Facebook.

Ok. Let's continue with a point of view story.

Point of View Story

(Improve your Grammar)

Now let's practice some grammar. Don't worry; you don't have to memorize anything. Just listen carefully because I will tell the same story twice.

Are you ready?

I'll tell the story from Mike's point of view, in the past tense.

Last year, it was my wife's birthday, so I wanted to bake a birthday cake for her.

I never baked before, but I was confident it wouldn't be such a big deal. I didn't think it would be too difficult. After all, my wife, Emily, bakes all the time.

So, I went to the supermarket and bought all the ingredients on the list.

For the batter, I bought some flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, oil, eggs, and some milk. And for decorating the cake, for the icing, I bought some cream cheese, vanilla extract, and some butter.

After buying all the ingredients, I started making the cake.

After 5 hours, I was completely exhausted but also incredibly proud of myself. The cake came out beautifully and looked delicious. And I was confident that my wife would be pleased.

However, to my surprise, Emily didn't like the cake at all. She said it was too sweet.

Ups, I guess that I have made a small mistake when reading the recipe. I added ten cups of sugar instead of just one cup.

Considering that it was the first time I ever baked a cake, I was still proud of myself.

Now let's hear the story from Emily's point of view in the future tense.

Next year, it will be my birthday, so I guess that my husband Mike will want to bake me a cake.

He won't think baking will be too difficult. After all, I bake all the time.

So, he will go to the supermarket and will buy all the ingredients on the list.

For the batter, he will buy some flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, oil, eggs, and some milk. And for decorating the cake, for the icing, he will buy some cream cheese, vanilla extract, and some butter.

After he will buy all the ingredients, he will start making the cake. After 5 hours, he will be completely exhausted but also incredibly proud of himself. The cake will come out beautifully and will look delicious. So he will be confident that I will be pleased.

However, to his surprise, I won't like the cake at all. I will say that it is too sweet.

That's because while baking he will make a big mistake when reading the recipe. He will add ten cups of sugar instead of just one. What a disaster!

Considering that it will be the first time he will ever bake a cake, he will still be proud of himself.

Poor Mike, it turns out Emily didn't like the cake because it was too sweet. I guess Emily's like me. I imagine that she adds the minimum amount sugar to her cakes.

Perfect! It's the end of this point of view lesson. Have you seen the power of point of view technique? We have checked a lot of grammar by merely using the same story. It's very easy to compare the different structures because you compare them in parallel.

Let me ask you something. Is my podcast helping you with your English?

Though the podcast is a useful resource, because of time limitations, I can hardly develop these lessons, although they allow you to try out my method.

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That's all for today.

I will be back next week!
Bye! Bye!



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