

Food equivalence

A VARIED DIET

Food equivalence means replacing one foodstuff with another, so long as they have similar nutritional properties.

Equivalent foodstuffs can belong to the same food group but equivalences also exist between groups.



For example you can get 10 g of fibre from 100 g of porridge oats or from 170 g of peas. Equivalences allow you to eat a variety of food while continuing to take in the essential elements your body needs and alternating the taste of your meals.



100 g porridge oats
10 g fibre



170 g peas
10 g fibre

The choice of food depends a lot on availability and financial means and is also heavily influenced by social, cultural and religious customs. We cannot overlook the fact that food consumed by one person will be unpleasant to another.

A BALANCED DIET

Equivalences allow us to deal with these issues and eat a balanced diet whatever food is available, whatever food restrictions exist and whatever our personal tastes. If you do not like certain kinds of fruit, you could choose between a handful of apricots or cherries or even quarter of a melon.



All of these provide a roughly equivalent amount of carbohydrates.

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We either choose to, or sometimes have to, avoid certain foodstuffs. We may not wish to eat meat on principle or wish to avoid pork for religious reasons, or have to avoid peanuts due to an allergy for example.



If there is not an excessive number of restrictions, the variety of food we can access should allow us to eat a balanced diet and satiate hunger.

Food equivalence

Food equivalence means replacing one foodstuff with another, provided they both have the same...

- taste
- nutritional properties
- colour

When talking of food equivalence, the two foodstuffs can belong to the same group or to different groups.

- True
- False

In the case of special diets or allergies, food equivalence helps ensure a balanced and varied diet.

- True
- False

If I don't like peas but would like an equivalent intake of fibre, I can eat oats instead.

- False
- True

Calcic equivalence means finding two foodstuffs with the same amount of...

- proteins
- calcium
- carbohydrates

If you don't like milk or yoghurt, what can you eat that is a good source of calcium?

- Cheese
- Pasta
- Fruit

Answers

Food equivalence means replacing one foodstuff with another, provided they both have the same...

- taste**
Wrong! Nice try, but that's not right.
- nutritional properties**
Well done! We talk about food equivalence when two foodstuffs have similar nutritional properties.
- colour**
Wrong! That's not right.

When talking of food equivalence, the two foodstuffs can belong to the same group or to different groups.

- True**
Well done! As long as the replacement foodstuff has an equivalent composition of nutrients, it may come from another group.
- False**
Wrong! Try again!

In the case of special diets or allergies, food equivalence helps ensure a balanced and varied diet.

- True**
Well done! That's right! Food equivalence can prevent nutrient deficiency.
- False**
Wrong! Try again!

If I don't like peas but would like an equivalent intake of fibre, I can eat oats instead.

- False**
Wrong! Try again!
- True**
Well done! That's right, because they have the same amount of dietary fibre.

Calcic equivalence means finding two foodstuffs with the same amount of...

- proteins**
Wrong! Try again!
- calcium**
Well done! That's right!
- carbohydrates**
Wrong! Try again!

If you don't like milk or yoghurt, what can you eat that is a good source of calcium?

- Cheese**
Well done! Cheese is a great source of calcium. It contains much more calcium than milk or yoghurt do. Don't forget, though, it also has a higher fat content.
- Pasta**
Wrong! Pasta is mainly rich in carbohydrates.
- Fruit**
Wrong! Fruit is mainly rich in fibre and vitamins.

Protein content

[11-13 years old]

Value for 100 g	Proteins (g)
beef	18
chicken	21
tuna	27
egg	13

Calculate the following equivalences.

200 g of beef provides the equivalent amount of protein to

_____ grams of chicken

_____ grams of tuna

_____ grams of eggs

Answer: 171 g chicken, 133 g tuna, 277 of eggs

Answers

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_____ **171** _ grams of chicken

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Answer: 171 g chicken, 133 g tuna, 277 of eggs