

AUTUMN BAKERS



OUR TIPS FOR BAKING AND ENGLISH

Take a look at Maria's story to learn more about baking ideas, how to talk about baking, yourself and your passions in English



1. INTRODUCING YOURSELF

Hello, I'm Maria and I'm passionate about baking.

If you have any difficulties when it comes to meeting someone for the first time and introducing yourself, you shouldn't feel embarrassed. Many times native speakers also become tongue-tied when speaking about themselves. Here are some of the best ways for introducing yourself in English:

- Hi, I'm Mark.
- My name's Lucia and I'm from Italy.
- I'm Mateo but people here call me Matt.
- Nice to meet you; I'm Alex.
- Pleased to meet you; I'm Assane.
- Let me introduce myself; I'm Andreea.
- I'd like to introduce myself; I'm Cosmin.
- I don't think we've met; I'm John.
- I think we've already met; I'm Mary the baker.



2. WHY I BECAME A BAKER

One of the childhood memories I'm most fond of is the smell of fresh raspberry pie my grandmother was baking. My taste buds led me to develop an interest in this domain early on in life, and by the time I was a teenager I met my first love: the wood-fired-oven. Have you ever worked on one? I dare you to tell me that it's not one of the most challenging and rewarding relationships you've ever had.

My inspiration to become a baker was probably the desire to know more about my food and where it came from, as well as being a part of every step of the process. I like to feed people partly because that's how my family shows love.

Nowadays, my husband and I run a small family business in the center of the town. He's the chef lovingly preparing the meals, and the I happily bake the cakes.

As far as I'm concerned, the best thing about baking is that it can be a very calming activity. It can genuinely soothe ruffled nerves because it takes up all your attention and makes you focus on one thing alone. In that sense, I find it quite meditative. And there's definitely something about the aroma of a freshly-baked batch of cookies, bread, or cupcakes, which instantly puts your mind at ease.





3. WRITING TIPS

Capitalize the first word of a sentence, as well as names and other proper nouns.

Use **punctuation**. It's the tool that allows us to organize our thoughts and make it easier to express and share our ideas. The standard English punctuation is: period, comma, apostrophe, quotation, question, exclamation, brackets, braces, parenthesis, dash, hyphen, ellipsis, colon, semicolon.

Be mindful about your **spelling** (the correct order of the letters in a word). It is a critical component of communication, and has a direct impact on employment opportunities. There are some great tools that can help us in this respect, like our smartphone's autocorrect feature or websites like grammarly.com.

4. NOW, LET'S TALK SOME TENSES

When did you bake it?

If I come in, can I still feel the smell? If yes, then we're talking **Present Perfect**: "I've just added some cinnamon on top of it, that's why the kitchen smells so nice".

This tense is called Present Perfect because there is always a connection with the past and with the present. We use the Present Perfect to talk about things like: experience, change or a continuing situation.

Its structure is: **Subject + Auxiliary "to have"** (conjugated in Present Simple - have, has) + **Main verb** (in past participle form: -ed or irregular)

Or perhaps it's about something you'll be doing later. Then we're talking **Future Simple**: "I'll add the cinnamon later, I'm not done yet".

We use Future Simple Tense to talk about things that haven't happened yet, to predict a future event, to express a spontaneous decision or to express willingness.

Its structure is: **Subject + Auxiliary "will"** + **Main verb** (in infinitive form).



5. USEFUL VOCABULARY

Some useful vocabulary and phrases for these two tenses include:

Present Perfect: for; since; yet; never; always; so far; x times; many times; lately; recently; already.

Future Simple: tomorrow; in (future year, month, week); on (future day); next (month, week, year, name of day); x days, months, weeks, years from now; this month, week, afternoon, year; someday.



While we are talking vocabulary, how would you describe a good cake? A good cake, as some experts put it, must look beautiful and taste divine. Here are some words that can help you describe the cake you've baked:

Aromatic	Artisan	Heavenly	Powdery	Soft
Creamy	Flavour	Homemade	Rich	Sumptuous
Crispy	Fluffy	Lush	Silky	Velvety
Crunchy	Gourmet	Mouthwatering	Smooth	Warm

Example: What a rich and mouthwatering oreo cake, I can't wait to try it again.



6. BEING POLITE

The purpose of using polite speech is to show respect and keep formality. If Romanian language has the polite form “dumneavoastra”, English only uses “you”. Therefore, to sound polite in English, you need to construct your sentences accordingly. If you are using the casual speech when meeting someone for the first time, you might come across as rude. In the same way, you should use casual speech to people you are close with.

You can generally use polite forms to almost anyone – from someone you have just met, someone you are not close enough, someone who has a higher social rank, to your superiors; as long as they are not your family or your close friends.

Some polite forms of giving advice and suggestions include:

- Would like to...
- Should (do)...
- Need to (do)...
- You might want to think about...
- You might want to consider...
- Maybe you/we could...
- It may be a good idea to...
- It might be a good idea to...

