



## Jiaozi Dumplings with Sweet Soy Sauce

By Erin Fletter

**Prep Time 25 / Cook Time 10 / Serves 4 - 6**

### Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

**knife skills:** Bear Claw (growl), Pinch, Plank, and Bridge (look out for trolls).

**chop:** to cut something into small, rough pieces using a blade.

**grate:** to reduce food, like a carrot, to very small shreds or pieces of the same size by rubbing it on a tool with an outside surface that has holes with cutting edges (a grater).

**knead:** to work dough by pushing, pulling, and folding it by hand or with a stand mixer.

**rest (dough):** to let bread or pastry dough relax, allowing the dough to absorb more liquid and become more pliable before shaping it.

**whisk:** to beat or stir ingredients vigorously with a fork or whisk to mix, blend, or incorporate air.

### Equipment

- Skillet + lid
- Mixing bowls
- Dry measuring cups
- Liquid measuring cup
- Measuring spoons
- Clean, damp dish towel or paper towels
- Cutting board
- Kid-safe knife
- Grater

Whisk

## Ingredients

### Jiaozi Dumplings with Sweet Soy Sauce

1 tsp (roughly) vegetable oil \*\* for frying

1/2 C water for steaming

Dough:

1 C all-purpose flour \*\*(for GLUTEN ALLERGY sub 1 C gluten-free/nut-free all-purpose flour)\*\*

1/2 C warm water

1 tsp vegetable oil \*\*

1 big pinch salt

Filling:

1/4 lb firm tofu \*\*(for SOY ALLERGY sub 1 C shredded cabbage)\*\*

1 garlic clove

1/4 lb mushrooms (button mushrooms work great)

1 handful bean sprouts, optional

2 T grated fresh ginger

1 large carrot

2 T soy sauce \*\*(for GLUTEN/SOY ALLERGY sub 2 T coconut aminos)\*\*

2 tsp vegetable oil \*\*

2 T cornstarch

Sauce:

1/2 tsp grated fresh ginger

1/2 tsp grated garlic

1/2 tsp grated carrot

3 T soy sauce \*\*(for GLUTEN/SOY ALLERGY sub 3 T coconut aminos)\*\*

1 T rice vinegar

1 tsp honey, agave syrup, or sugar

1 1/2 tsp vegetable oil \*\*

## Food Allergen Substitutions

### Jiaozi Dumplings with Sweet Soy Sauce

**Gluten/Wheat:** For 1 C all-purpose flour, substitute 1 C gluten-free/nut-free all-purpose flour.

**Soy:** Substitute canola oil or other nut-free oil for vegetable oil. For 1/4 lb firm tofu, substitute 1 C shredded cabbage.

**Gluten/Soy:** Substitute coconut aminos for soy sauce.

## Instructions

### Jiaozi Dumplings with Sweet Soy Sauce

#### mix + knead + rest

Let's start with the dumpling dough! In a large bowl, have your kids measure and mix **1 cup flour, 1/2 cup warm water, 1 teaspoon vegetable oil, and 1 big pinch of salt** until the dough comes together. With clean hands, have them knead the dough on a floured surface until smooth. Cover the dough with a clean, damp towel while you let it rest for 15 minutes.

#### chop + grate

While the dough takes a nap, let's make the filling! Have kids chop **1/4 pound firm tofu, 1 garlic clove, 1/4 pound mushrooms, and optional 1 handful of bean sprouts**. Grate **2 tablespoons fresh ginger** and **1 large carrot**, add to the mushroom mixture, and set aside.

#### pour + sprinkle

Have your kids measure and pour **2 tablespoons soy sauce** and **2 teaspoons vegetable oil** over the mushroom mixture. Then, have them measure and sprinkle **2 tablespoons of cornstarch** over the mushrooms and toss together well.

#### roll + shape

With clean hands, have the kids roll the dough into long cylinders about 1 1/2 inches thick and cut the cylinders into 1/2-inch pieces. Next, have them flatten the pieces with the palm of their hand, forming disks. Roll out each disk to about a 2-inch diameter circle. They will be a bit thick. That's okay! Place a small spoonful of the filling in the center of the wrapper, fold the two sides over the center and have kids pinch the edges to seal the filling in.

#### frying safety

Make sure always to have your skillet lid nearby. Smoke and splatter are hazardous and need to be treated with care. As soon as you finish using the fryer oil, remove the skillet from the heat to ensure it cools as

quickly as possible.

### fry + steam

To fry dumplings, adults heat roughly **1 teaspoon vegetable oil** in your skillet over medium-high heat, add the dumplings, and fry until their bottoms are golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes. Then, carefully add **1/2 cup of water**, cover, and steam until the water has disappeared, about 3 to 5 minutes. Uncover and cook for another 2 minutes over medium-low heat.

### scrumptious science

Frying is a cooking method that relies on the principles of heat transfer and chemical reactions to cook food. When food is submerged in hot oil, the high temperature causes water to evaporate rapidly, creating steam and forming a crust. This process and the Maillard reaction (a chemical process that occurs when food is heated, causing browning and development of complex flavors) contribute to the characteristic crispiness and flavor of fried foods.

### grate + mix + whisk

Sweet Soy Sauce time! While you cook the dumplings, have your kids grate **1/2 teaspoon fresh ginger**, **1/2 teaspoon garlic**, and **1/2 teaspoon carrot** and add to a small bowl. Add **3 tablespoons soy sauce**, **1 tablespoon rice vinegar**, **1 teaspoon honey**, and **1 1/2 teaspoons vegetable oil**, then whisk everything together. "Chī hǎo hē hǎo" (Chuh how huh how) or "Enjoy your meal" in Chinese!

## Featured Ingredient: Mushrooms!

Hi! I'm Toady! I'm a Mushroom!

"I'm also a fun guy! Get it? Fun guy—fungi? I'm good in salads, sandwiches, soups, stews, on pizza, with pasta, and stuffed with other yummy foods. Plus, you can cook and use me in recipes just like you would meat!"

### History

The first mushrooms were thought to be cultivated in Southeast Asia, but it is not known why for sure. Perhaps someone discovered that mushrooms grew by accident and sought out a growing method. All mushrooms are fungi, but not all fungi are mushrooms! There are an estimated 1.5 to 2 million species of fungi on planet Earth, of which only 80,000 have been properly identified. There are over 250 kinds of mushrooms that people eat.

Mushrooms are a kind of fungus that look like umbrellas! They grow in places like yards, forests, fields, and gardens.

What is a fungus? It's a kind of living organism that is different from plants. In fact, mushrooms are more like humans than plants!

Fungi walls are made of a fibrous substance called "chitin," rather than cellulose, like plants. Also, plants

produce their own energy from the sun from photosynthesis, but mushrooms and other fungi don't need the sun for energy!

Many fungi eat by breaking down dead plants. However, other fungi feast on dead animals, bird droppings, manure, wallpaper paste, fruit, and living animals. So fungi are like nature's cleanup crew!

The yeast that makes bread rise is a type of fungi.

Mushrooms are sometimes called Toadstools! Can you picture a toad sitting on top of a giant mushroom?

Some mushrooms are good to eat, like portobellos, crimini, and shiitakes, while others are extremely poisonous. Never eat a mushroom you find growing outside unless you are with a mushroom expert!

The Honey Mushroom in the Blue Mountains of Oregon is the world's largest living thing. It is actually a mushroom colony and is believed to be at least 2,000 years old! It covers almost four square miles!

Some mushrooms live entirely underwater.

In the Amazon rainforest, mushrooms release spores into the air, which creates the surface for water to condense and can trigger rain. The rain then causes more fungi to grow.

Before the invention of colorful synthetic dyes, people used mushrooms for dyeing wool and other natural fibers.

Greek warriors ate mushrooms to increase their strength before battle.

Mushrooms are one of the vegetable world's substitutes for meat.

## Anatomy & Etymology

The largest mushroom you'll find in most grocery stores is the portobello. It is the fully grown version of the *Agaricus Bisporus* species and has a large, brown cap. Smaller, immature mushrooms may be brown, like the cremini, or white, like the button.

Mushrooms contain more than 90 percent water!

Some mushrooms glow in the dark! They produce light through a process called bioluminescence. People used to carry these in ancient times to light their way through the forest.

Mushrooms can grow super fast. Once they break through the surface of whatever they're growing on, they can double their size in just one day.

The word "mushroom" comes from late Middle English for any fungus with a fleshy and fruiting body. It is derived from the Old French "mousseron," from the late Latin "mussirio."

## How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

Wild mushrooms can be found in many wooded areas. If you choose to harvest wild mushrooms, make certain you have a professional identify your pick. Many mushrooms may resemble safe mushrooms but are actually poisonous!

Buy mushrooms with whole, intact caps, and be sure they are not wet or slimy!

They will smell strong, sweet, and earthy when fresh.

Rinse mushrooms before you slice or cut them. Whole mushrooms won't absorb much water, while cut

mushrooms will. Wait to rinse mushrooms until right before you cook them; otherwise, they'll turn slimy. Mushrooms can be broiled, sautéed, and grilled. Mushrooms can be chopped or sliced and added to other dishes. Portobello caps are large enough to eat like a hamburger on a bun! The mushroom cap is most often the part that is cooked and eaten. The stem can be fibrous and woody but will add flavor to vegetable or meat stock.

Mushrooms pair well with balsamic vinegar, fresh herbs (like oregano, rosemary, thyme, and cilantro), marinara, spinach, leafy greens, tomatoes, goat cheese, mozzarella, cream-based sauces, garlic, and onions.

Store mushrooms in a partially closed resealable plastic bag to ensure air circulation without drying out the mushrooms.

## Nutrition

Mushrooms are low in calories and are an excellent source of B vitamins. These vitamins are needed for healthy cell and brain function, and they help prevent cancer and stress.

Even though mushrooms don't use the sun for energy, they use it to produce vitamin D, just like humans do! Vitamin D is essential to our bones! It keeps them strong and regenerating.

Mushrooms have essential minerals such as selenium, copper, phosphorus, zinc, and potassium. Copper helps the body build red blood cells and is necessary for the health of our bones. Selenium is an antioxidant that may decrease cancer risk.

Mushrooms have been used successfully in traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years to treat many health conditions. Western medicine is finally beginning to recognize and utilize some of the medicine mushrooms naturally contain.