



## Sweet and Savory Middle Eastern Hummus

By Erin Fletter

**Prep Time** 40 / **Cook Time** 9 / **Serves** 4 - 6

### Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

**blend:** to stir together two or more ingredients until just combined; blending is a gentler process than mixing.

**plate:** to arrange food beautifully on a plate or platter or in a bowl.

**season:** to add flavor to food with spices, herbs, and salt.

**simmer:** to cook a food gently, usually in a liquid, until softened.

**toast:** to brown and crisp food in a heated skillet or oven, or in a toaster.

### Equipment

- Can opener
- Strainer
- Blender (or food processor)
- Measuring spoons
- Dry measuring cups
- Medium bowl

### Ingredients

#### Sweet and Savory Middle Eastern Hummus

- 2 15 oz cans chickpeas/garbanzo beans (sub cooked cauliflower + extra water—more info below)
- 3 T olive oil
- 1/4 C tahini (sub sunflower butter or omit, if allergic to sesame)

sweet add-ins (kids choose!):

cocoa powder, cinnamon, chocolate chips, mashed banana, canned pumpkin, sugar/maple syrup/honey, ginger, nutmeg, lemon juice/zest, etc.

savory add-ins (kids choose!):

minced garlic or garlic powder, lemon/lime zest or juice, salt, pepper, paprika, cumin, chile powder, oregano, basil, cilantro, etc.

## Food Allergen Substitutions

### Sweet and Savory Middle Eastern Hummus

**Chickpea:** Substitute {{2}} pkgs frozen (thawed) cooked cauliflower + extra water as needed to thin out your hummus.

**Nut/Sesame:** sub sunflower butter or omit tahini, made from sesame seeds, from Hummus.

## Instructions

### Sweet and Savory Middle Eastern Hummus

#### measure + blend

Drain **2 cans of cooked chickpeas** (reserve the liquid!) and add to a blender or food processor. Measure and add **3 tablespoons of olive oil** and **1/4 cup of tahini**.

#### season + mix

Scoop hummus into a bowl. To make Sweet Hummus, add any combination of the following ingredients: mashed ripe banana, mashed canned pumpkin, chocolate chips, cocoa powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, lemon zest/juice, and sugar/honey/maple syrup! Taste as you go and have kiddos add more of any ingredient they choose. To make Savory Hummus, add any combination of the following: fresh minced garlic OR garlic powder, lemon/lime zest/juice, salt, pepper, paprika, cumin, chile powder, oregano, basil, cilantro, etc. Taste as you go and have kiddos add more of any ingredient they choose. Serve with Bite-Sized Dippers and Sweet Spiced Ginger Tea!

## Featured Ingredient: Chickpeas!

Hi! I'm Chickpea!

"Hmmm, I think I would like you to call me a Chickpea, not a garbanzo bean. Aren't little chicks so cute! You're probably familiar with me if you've ever eaten hummus. It's made with chickpeas! I'm a cute little seed that, when you combine a bunch of us, we can provide an excellent source of protein in your diet!"

## History & Etymology

Chickpeas are a high-protein legume and the main ingredient in many Middle Eastern and Mediterranean dishes. They may also be called garbanzo beans.

Evidence of domesticated chickpeas from about 9,500 years ago has been found in Turkey and the Levant (an area bordering the Mediterranean in Western Asia).

The word "chickpeas" comes from the early 18th century, and earlier was "chiche-pease," which came from late Middle English "chiche," from the Middle French "pois chiche," from the Latin "cicer."

The word "garbanzo" is Spanish for "chickpea," and the word "hummus" is Arabic for "chickpea."

## Anatomy

A chickpea is a round, yellow-tan seed that grows in pods on a legume plant that can grow from 8 to 20 inches high. One pod holds two to three seeds.

Chickpeas are grown around the world, and there are dozens of varieties, including a black one from southern Italy called "ceci neri."

## How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

Chickpeas taste like a bean, but they also have a nutty flavor, and their texture, when cooked, is described as soft and creamy or buttery. For Middle Eastern dishes, dried chickpeas are often boiled and mashed to make hummus, or they are soaked and then ground into flour to make falafels.

You can add cooked or canned chickpeas to salads, roasted veggies, soups, stews, pasta, or rice dishes. You can also roast chickpeas and eat them as a snack. In the Middle East, roasted chickpeas are called "leblebi."

## Nutrition

Chickpeas provide almost 9 grams of protein in a 3.5-ounce serving. They are available either dried or canned. Because they are high in protein, chickpeas are often added to animal and bird feed.

Chickpeas have loads of dietary fiber! So what is fiber good for? Smooth digestion! It helps the body absorb the vitamins and nutrients it needs to be strong and healthy.

Chickpeas are also good sources of folate (vitamin B9), manganese, phosphorus, and iron.