

# Menu Forms

Menus must be written in a specific format. The format can change slightly if you have a very formal dinner. The basic menu is written in the following form:

Main Dish  
Side Dish or Vegetable  
Breads  
Or Pasta  
Dessert  
Beverage

The form is not difficult, but the words used can make a difference. Let's look at the following menu:

Chicken  
Beets Beans  
Bread  
Milk

How does it sound written like this?

Chicken with Orange Sauce  
Pickled Red Beets Green Beans  
Hot Corn Bread  
Cold Milk

Menus must also be appealing to read and hear. Remember to use describing words like hot and cold, include the color (red beets) and the type (green beans).

One final note: Consider if the food is appropriate for the type of meal. For example, hot dogs and baked beans would not be appropriate for a formal dinner. Spaghetti sauce and meatball would not be wise to serve at an outdoor barbecue. Can you give an example of an appropriate menu?

