

Pasta

Pasta, like spaghetti, macaroni and farfalle, is an Italian food made from a simple dough. Pasta can be fresh or dried.

The main ingredient of most types of pasta is a type of wheat flour called 'semolina'. Semolina is used because it makes the dough more elastic. This means it can easily be stretched into different shapes without breaking.

To begin making pasta, the semolina is mixed with water and salt to make a dough. Sometimes other ingredients are also added, like chopped spinach, which makes green pasta, or tomato paste, which makes red pasta.

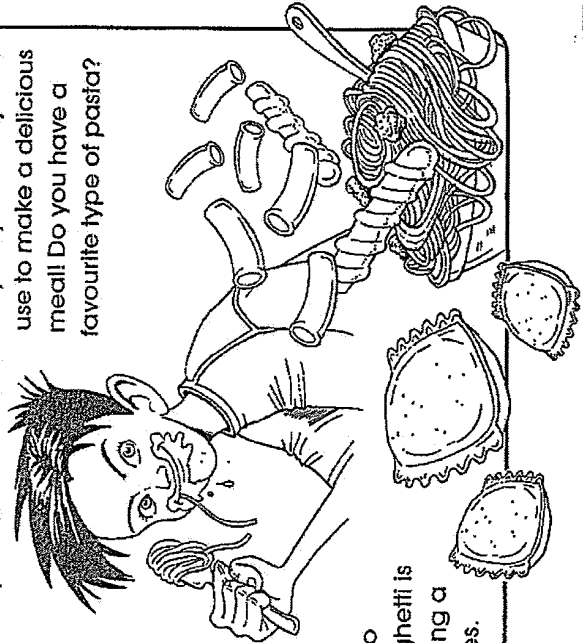
What happens next to the dough depends on what type of pasta it is being made into.

Some pasta is made by pushing the dough through a series of holes in a large metal disc called a 'die'. The pasta dough is then cut to the required length. Spaghetti is made by this method, using a die with small, round holes.

Other types of pasta are made by flattening out the dough into a sheet. The pasta shapes are then cut out. Bow tie-shaped pasta is made in this way.

Once the pasta dough is the correct size and shape, it is dried. This is done by huge machines which blow hot, moist air over the pasta. This step is carefully timed, because different types of pasta take different lengths of time to dry. When the pasta is dry, it is packed into bags or boxes and sent to supermarkets or other shops.

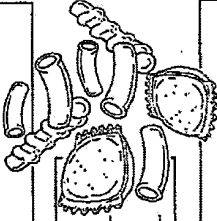
It is now ready for you to buy and use to make a delicious meal! Do you have a favourite type of pasta?



Use the explanation on page 59 to complete the page.

1. Title

This explanation has a very simple title. Write a more interesting one that suits the text.



2. Definition

What is pasta?

3. Description

(a) Descriptions often contain technical terms. Explain what these mean.

(i) red pasta

(ii) die

(iii) semolina

(b) Each paragraph in the *description* answers a question about how pasta is made; e.g. 'How is pasta dried?' Write a question that is answered by each paragraph.

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Paragraph 3:

Paragraph 4:

Paragraph 5:

(c) Do you think the order in which these paragraphs were written was the best choice? Yes No

Explain

4. Conclusion

Write a new conclusion to this text that contains an interesting comment.