Sample Food Journals

I highly recommend you keep a food journal. By writing down what you eat every day in a very simple, quick, and straightforward way, you're collecting information about what works and what doesn't work for your body.

Below, you'll find three sample food journals. As you'll see, your journal doesn't need to be complicated. I don't recommend you weigh or measure your food, record macros, or count calories. Simply write down what you eat each day.

As this becomes routine, you can also write down where you were on the hunger scale when you started and ended eating, as in Sample #2.

If you planned your food the night before, all you'll need to do is write down any substitutions or unplanned eating. Simply cross out anything you didn't eat, and make a note of any changes. What's important is to be honest!

When it comes to beverages, it's a good idea to write those down too. It's not necessary to record the water you drink – although if you struggle to stay well-hydrated it could be interesting to record. You'll see an example of this in Sample #3.

Note: these three samples are NOT suggestions for how to eat. Your plan may look very different. That's totally okay – treat these as examples of how to journal, not examples of how you should eat. Everyone's plan will be different!

Sample Food Journals

Sample 1: (Vegetarian)

Monday

Weight: 180

Breakfast (7 a.m.) 2 hard-boiled eggs, tea with milk

Lunch (12.30 p.m) Lentil and avocado salad, lime dressing, tea

Black decaf coffee

Dinner (6:30 p.m.) Fried rice with mixed veggies and tofu, melon

Tuesday

Weight: 178

Breakfast (6.30 a.m.) Oatmeal with yogurt and raspberries, tea with milk

Starbucks coffee with cream

Lunch (11.30 a.m) Roast veggies with cashews Plan B: veggie burger (no bun) carrot sticks with hummus

Dinner (6:45 p.m.) Veggie chili with brown rice, 1 glass red wine

Wednesday

Weight 178

Plan is to fast until lunch today.

6.45 a.m. Tea with coconut oil

Coffee with cream

Lunch (noon) Leftover veggie chili with brown rice and grated cheese

Dinner (5.30 p.m) Broccoli frittata, stir-fry veggies, melon

Around 8 p.m. popcorn (unplanned - home alone watching TV and feeling bored)

Sample Food Journals

Sample 2

Monday

Weight: 241

a.m. Coffee with heavy whipping cream

Lunch - 11:00 a.m.

Hunger scale -3 to +4

Butternut squash soup, apple slices with peanut butter

Dinner - 6 p.m.

Hunger scale -4 to +5

Grilled chicken breast, asparagus, 1/2 baked potato with butter

+ 1 beer and 10 fries from friend's plate (unplanned - I really wanted fries to go with my beer, and I was thinking they would be wasted if I didn't eat them)

Tuesday

Weight: 239

a.m. Coffee with heavy whipping cream

Lunch - 12:15 p.m.

Hunger scale -3 to +4

Avocado salmon salad with vinaigrette

Dinner - 7:45 p.m.

Hunger scale -4 to +6

Restaurant: steak, mashed potato, coleslaw, exception eat - crème brûlée

2 glasses red wine (1st planned, 2nd unplanned - friend poured the drink for me and I felt awkward saying no, need to plan what to say for next time.)

Wednesday

Weight: 241

a.m. Coffee with heavy whipping cream x2

Lunch - noon

Hunger scale -2 to +4

Chicken salad with pecans and ranch dressing

Dinner - 6:45p.m.

Hunger scale -5 to +4

3 scrambled eggs, 2 sausages, tomatoes, and spinach

Sample Food Journals

Sample 3

Friday

Weight: 149

8 a.m. Masala oatmeal with blueberries (+3)

Mint tea

1 p.m. Cauliflower crust pepperoni pizza, chai tea with heavy whipping cream (+4)

6p.m. Dhal with brown rice, snow peas, sour cream + 2 squares dark chocolate (+4)

Daily Water: 5 glasses

Saturday

Weight: 147

7.30 a.m. Tea with almond milk

10 a.m. Cauliflower Upma Out for brunch – fruit salad with yogurt and seeds (plan E) + small slice of quiche (unplanned - brunch went for a long time and I ate mainly because I wanted something to do...next time I could order a drink instead) (+5)

Lunch: Kaaley chaney <- not hungry, skipped lunch

5.30 p.m Take-out – lamb rogan josh, cucumber raita, no brown rice so I had white (+5/6)

Daily Water: 6 glasses

Sunday

Weight: 148

7.30 a.m. Masala oatmeal with raspberries, tea with almond milk (+3)

Small handful M&M's (unplanned - got stressed after checking my email, think I ate the M&M's to distract myself)

1.30 p.m. Keema Matar, green salad (+4)

6 p.m. Leftover lamb rogan josh with quinoa, watercress (+4)

Daily Water: 6 glasses