

VITAMINS

Like all micronutrients, vitamins work with other nutrients to trigger body processes.

Because your body cannot produce them on its own, almost all of your vitamins must come from food.

It is important to know what vitamins are contained in what foods so you can make sure that you get all the vitamins you need!

Vitamins come in two categories, depending on how they are carried through your body:

Fat-soluble and water-soluble

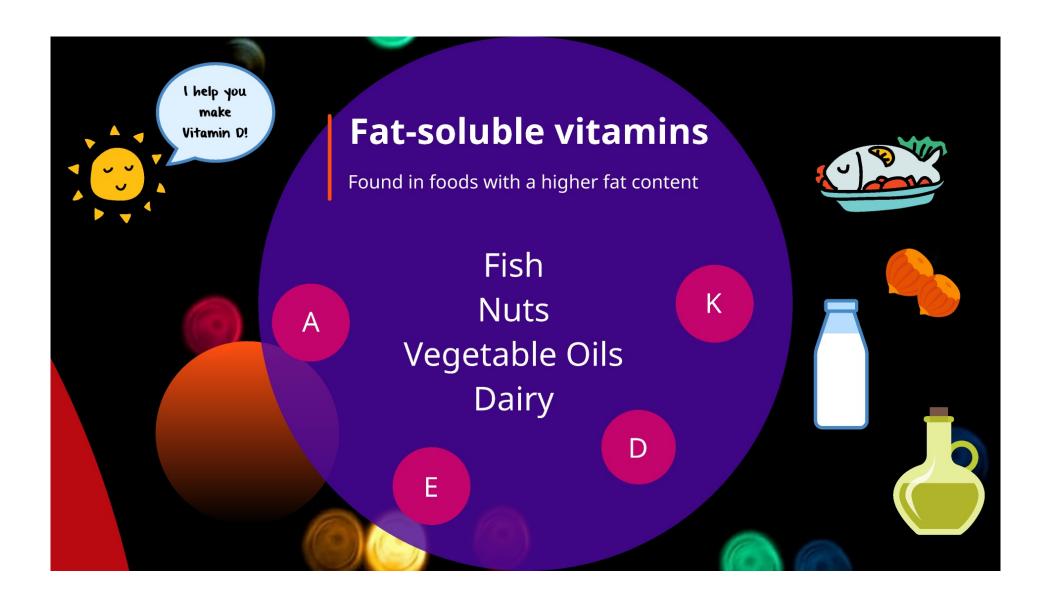
Fatsoluble vitamins

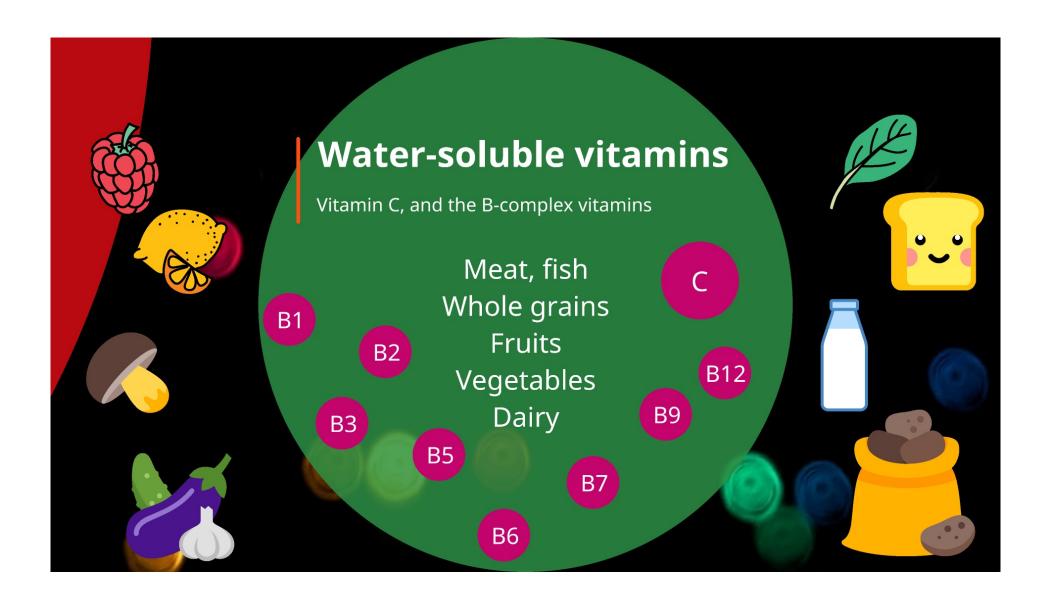
Watersoluble vitamins

VITAMINS

MINERALS

PHYTONUTRIENTS







* FAST FACT:

Minerals come from the earth, either in the form of plants, that absorb it from the ground, or animals, that eat food containing minerals. They not only help with body processes, they also *give your body structure*.

VITAMINS

MINERALS

PHYTONUTRIENTS

For example, calcium makes your bones and teeth strong. But it does not work alone...you also need vitamins D, K and magnesium so that the calcium can be absorbed.



Minerals combine in important ways. Three minerals, **sodium, chloride and potassium**, also called **electrolytes**, are necessary for maintaining the fluid in your body.

chloride

sodium





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PHYTONUTRIENTS

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Phytonutrients come from plant sources.

Foods with lots of phytonutrients are often very colorful and provide your body with health benefits such as preventing diseases, strengthening your immune system, and other ways that support your body to maintain optimal health.



Antioxidants

PHYTONUTRIENTS ARE FOUND IN COLORFUL FOODS

fruits, vegetables, beans, whole grains, nuts, herbs, spices and tea

Metabolic Magic



Many phytonutrients also act as **antioxidants**.



Antioxidants are substances that slow damage to your cells caused by *oxidation*, helping to protect against chronic diseases such as heart disease.







TEAMWORK



Specific micronutrients may be important for specific processes inside your body, but they often need to **work together** to make them happen.

For example, combining Vitamin C and iron will help your body break down the iron, while vitamins D, K, and magnesium help in calcium absorption.

In order to get the most benefit from these nutrients, you need a **variety** of them in your diet.

Teamwork is important when it comes to micronutrients!

