



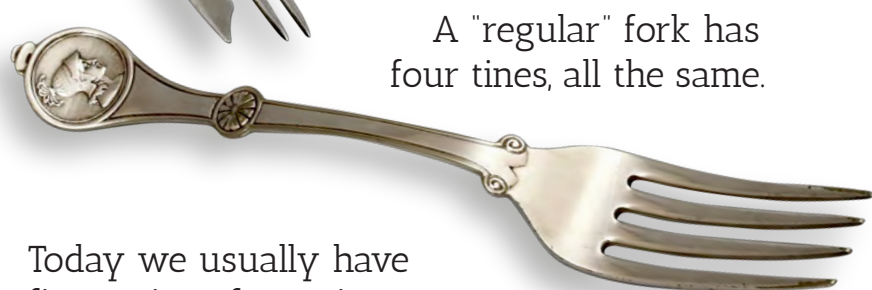
Crazy Fork

Why is a fork this shape?

The pointy parts of a fork are called "tines." They allow a fork to stab your food and hold it tightly enough to move it into your mouth. This fork has two small tines and one weird, wide one.

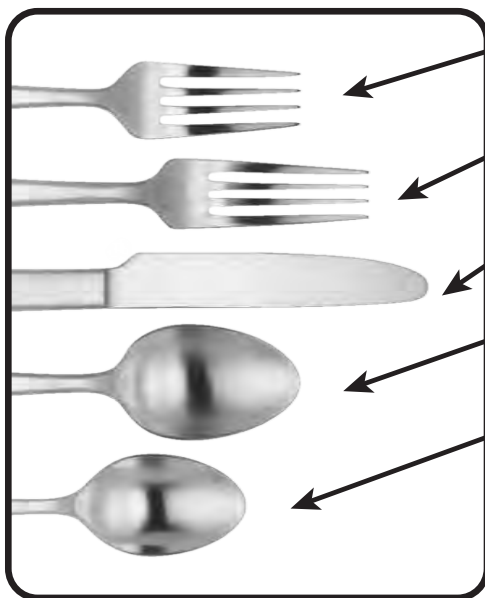
What things do you eat with a fork?

What would you eat with this fork?



A "regular" fork has four tines, all the same.

Today we usually have five options for eating: small fork, big fork, knife, big spoon, small spoon.



What would you eat with each one?

When this weird fork was made, there were utensils for all sorts of really specific things.



butter knife

mustard spoon

nut pick



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What is your favorite food:

Because this third tine is wider, it is stronger; it can work as a built-in knife for cutting something soft, like fish.

The notch at the tip can work to hook a bone and remove it from the fish.

What features on a utensil would make it easier to eat your favorite food?

You can "read" designs and figure out what their shapes are used for:



Reed & Barton put profiles of Romans on these utensils. Others have fish, people, initials, all sorts of things. What or who would you want on your utensil?

wide spoon on curved neck holds lots of soup and pours from either side into a bowl

tiny spoon for adding just a little salt to your food



thin long flat blade spreads butter evenly

long and pointy spoon gets into a tall ice cream dish

Draw a utensil for your favorite food:



Reed & Barton, 1868
To learn more:

