



Secret Ingredients

A cooking game by [Steffie de Vaan](#) for the [Our Little Food](#) jam

Ingredients:

- 👥 Friends
- 👥 A place to cook & eat
- 👥 A big soup pan (250 ml or 1 cup / person)
- 👥 An oven, or a flat pan for the bread
- 👥 Cutting boards & knives
- 👥 Secret bouillon cubes
- 👥 Leftovers (you can cheat a little)
- 👥 Herbs
- 👥 Bread
- 👥 Drinks (group's choice)
- 👥 Pen and paper
- 👥 Dice: d10 & d6

Preparation

Raid your fridge and cupboard for leftovers. You can ask your friends to bring leftovers too, but take common sense into account: carrying a bag of onions halfway across town is , carrying a bag of cooked chicken is . Anything in your vegetable patch and herb garden (if you have them), and spice rack is fair to use too. If you have less than 6 potential ingredients, or fewer than 4 herbs, you are allowed to “cheat” and buy fresh supplies.

The Secret Chefs

The host gets pieces of paper for everyone, and doodles a circle on half of them. Fold and have each player draw one. (If the paper is see-through and reveals who has a circle, the host should either get different paper or draw *something* on the other papers too.) The host calculates how many bouillon cubes the soup needs (usually it's 1 cube per 1 or 2 cups of soup—the packet will tell you) and puts them where everyone can easily reach.

Everyone looks at their paper and closes their eyes. The host counts to three—and on three, the secret chefs open their eyes, and raise their hand to signal to each other who they are. The host gives the secret chefs a count of ten to grab bouillon cubes now if they want to, though they can also decide to sneakily take them later. Lastly, the host counts to three during which time the secret chefs close their eyes again and open them on three along with everyone else.

Gameplay

Start by putting on a big pan of water (250 ml / 1 cup per person) and setting out all the ingredients. Remove ingredients people are allergic to or genuinely do not like. Each friend rolls on either the ingredients, herbs, or bread table (print the tables below) to add that ingredients. The group as a whole decides when it's enough—you could add six+ ingredients to a filling soup, or stick to just four. The same goes for herbs and bread toppings. The “mystery ingredient” is an ingredient of choice, or something the group brought which isn't on the list.

If you roll the same number as someone else, you choose whether the soup now gets two servings of onion, or whether you want to pick the next free ingredient down the list. The same applies if you roll an unavailable ingredient—just pick the next available one down the list.

Each roll also has an action or discussion topic attached to it, though again you are free to choose the next free ingredient down the list if it makes you uncomfortable. Everyone can chime into a discussion, or say “that's not a good ingredient” to signal to the group this topic is off limits (you can still use the ingredient though).

While all this is going on, the **secret chefs** need to add the bouillon cubes when no one is watching. Since the secret chefs know the others' identities, they can run distractions for each other. There is no penalty for being discovered, other than knowing your friends bested you.

The Door is Always Open

People can drop in and out as they want—there's no obligation to be present from the start, or remain until serving time. Direct new arrivals to the tables and tell them to start cooking. People do need to be present for the initial draw to be a secret chef.

Soup is Served

Most leftover ingredients require little cooking time and (unless noted) are safe to eat raw, so simply taste the soup to determine when it's done. Enjoy!

Soup Ingredients: Vegetables (recommend 4-6)

1D10	Ingredients	Task/Topic
1	Bell pepper	Your last (romantic, platonic, or hanging with friends) date
2	Broccoli or cauliflower	The last show or movie you watched
3	Carrots	Help set the table
4	Celery	Make drinks for people
5	Leek	The last time you farted in public
6	Mushrooms	The last (analog or video) game you played
7	Onion	Tell a joke
8	Pasta, noodles, or vermicelli (check packet for cooking time)	Help set the table
9	Potatoes, cubed (if not yet cooked, small cubes take 5-10 minutes)	The last time you owned someone
10	Mystery Ingredient	Start a sing-along

Soup Ingredients: Meat (recommend 0-2)

1D6	Ingredients	Task/Topic
1	Chorizo	Make drinks for people
2	Chicken, cooked or smoked	Who is your crush (past or present)
3	Meat balls	Your favorite planet
4	Salmon, smoked	Start a sing-along
5	Turkey	Help set the table
6	Mystery Ingredient	Tell a "mystery meat" joke

Soup Ingredients: Herbs (recommend 3+)

1D10	Ingredients	Task/Topic
1	Bayleaf	The best pokemon
2	Coriander	The funniest date (romantic, platonic, or with friends) you've ever been on
3	Garlic powder	The last book you read
4	Lovage	Start a sing-a-long
5	Parsley (add as garnish)	Help set the table
6	Pepper, ground	Your favorite musician
7	Rosemary	Make drinks for people
8	Spicy Pepper / Jalapeno (optional: remove seeds)	Tell a joke
9	Thyme	Your favorite dinosaur
10	Mystery Ingredient	Tell two truths and one lie. Friends guess which is which.

Bread Toppings (recommend 1-5)

1D6	Ingredients	Task/Topic
1	Cheese (optional: dairy-free)	Famous person you'd take on a date
2	Garlic (powder or squeezed)	Best outfit worn by a celebrity
3	(Olive) oil	Your favorite holiday
4	Seasalt	Help set the table
5	Pepper, ground	Your favorite actor/actress
6	Mystery Ingredient	Start a sing-along