3 Minute Cup Noodle Gauntlet

By SJ-Chan with Ursine the Mad Bear

v1.2



Behold, the most challenging Jumpchain Gauntlet ever! In this harrowing adventure, you'll be pushed to your very limits, your skills and abilities tested as never before. This is no ordinary Gauntlet. There you risk nothing with failure. But this time... this time... Lunch is on the line!

Over the next 15 minutes, you'll be transported to that most dangerous of all battlefields... a busy lunchroom, with one simple goal... cook your lunch and eat it before Jump-Chan returns and makes you get back to work. You've been stripped of all your special abilities and equipment. To aid you in this endeavor... oops... looks like you forgot your wallet. You have Zero Cup Points. Looks like you may be out of luck.

Changelog

1.0: Document Created. Your change is 21 cents.

1.1: Ruled that drawbacks can't be taken for points more than once and companions may not be imported more than once. Items can be purchased more than once. Clarified The Leading Consumer Goods Company. Fixed 'With An Egg's description. Modified "A Dance Craze"

1.2: Changed the wording of 'You'll Never Miss What Isn't There' to be clearer. Added a crowd picture. Added 'Private Washroom' item.

VARIETIES

You must pick one and only one Variety.







Ramen Variety [Free]: A staple of Japanese cooking, a true ramen can be a religious experience, a mixture of ingredients and broth that is mindblowing. Chefs spend years trying to perfect just the basics… but this is instant ramen. Invented by Momofuku Ando, instant ramen noodles have saved millions from starvation… and millions more from the munchies. Globally known as the ultimate in affordable foods, ramen kicked off the entire instant food culture.

Iron Mouth [100] (Free Ramen): You can eat or drink anything regardless of its temperature without damaging yourself… does not make things otherwise inedible to you edible. Does nothing to stop other parts of the substance from damaging you (poisons are still poisonous… but boiling poisons won't burn your mouth.) Frozen food might be too hard to chew, but if you can swallow it, you won't get brain-freeze.

Pasta Variety [100]: Ah, good old Italy, where they took something asian and said, 'We can do better!' Did they? Well, they certainly made more of pasta than all of asia ever did. Of course, this is microwave pasta, so it's not the best… but it's pasta… is it ever truly terrible?

Always Al Dente [100] (Free Pasta): Any food you eat is always the ideal level of softness / firmness for your tastes. Nothing that you consider edible will ever have adverse mouthfeel or texture issues for you ever again.

Yakisoba Variety [100]: Yakisoba... chewy noodles, tangy sauce, rehydrated vegetables... maybe some actual meat in there somewhere? It's like ramen without the broth. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Depends entirely on you, my friend.

Hard to Pin Down [100] (Free Yakisoba): When you might be included in a group, or might not, based on some classification (race, gender, political affiliation), the universe will always give you the benefit of the doubt and either include you or excluded you, whichever would be more advantageous for you. It will even do this on a case by case basis, so that you can gain all the advantages of belonging and all the advantages of not belonging.

Noodle Soup Variety [100]: From Udon to Chicken Noodle, from fully prepared cans of soup to nuke in the bowl pre-packed noodles, these aren't rehydrated dry noodles like ramen or instant pasta or yakisoba... these are the good stuff... as far as quick prep lunches go at least. They're also the most expensive on the list, but you get what you pay for.

You Get What You Pay For [100] (Free Noodle Soup): You are guaranteed to (almost) always get value for your money. Anything you pay for will always work as advertised (if that's possible given the technology and laws of the given universe). Services you pay for will almost always be delivered on as promised as well. This doesn't mean that someone can't defraud you, but they have to be trying very hard and be targeting you specifically. Anything available to the general public is totally guaranteed to work unless there isn't any way that's possible.

Curry Variety [100]: Quick fact; curry is old / middle english for 'to cook' and is not, in fact, an Indian word. Kari is the Tamil name of a spiced meat dish and the two terms eventually merged in the 16th century. Don't you feel smarter now?

Spice is Life [100] (Free Curry): No matter how spicy something is, it will never be too intense for you to handle. By the same metric, you will never find yourself needing more and more spice for that rush or sense of flavor. You will always be able to appreciate any spice mix as if it were the first time you ever tried it. Also, any spice you use will taste as if it were at peak freshness.

BRANDS

You must pick one and only one Brand.



Generic Brand [+100]: You're eating some local storebrand version of instant noodles. It has way too much salt and is fried in palm oil. It tastes faintly metallic and might cause indigestion.

MSG Means Love! [100] (Free Generic Brand): You never get headaches under normal circumstances and anything that would give you a headache has a reduced effect. Any headaches you do get fade rapidly.

You'll Never Miss What Isn't There [200] (Discount Generic Brand): Whenever you are in a gauntlet, or take a power loss drawback, or are otherwise stripped of your powers, you won't freak out about missing parts of yourself or abilities that you rely on. This is only ever effective when you're stripped of some or all of your powers and is considered part of your body mod.

Good Enough, Fast Enough [400] (Discount Generic Brand): Whenever you have a limited time window to produce something or a limited budget with which to do so... or both, you'll find a way to produce the barest minimum needed to satisfy whatever requirement... assuming you could normally have satisfied the requirement had you had a reasonable budget or deadline. Whatever you make is probably not going to be great, but once in a great while, you'll discover a previously unknown (to you at least) technique that legitimately shaves time or cost without damaging the end results... and even rarer, sometimes you'll find such a way that actually improves on what you might otherwise have accomplished.



Kraft Brand [Free]: Ah, good old american (or canadian, those wacky canooks do like their Kraft Dinner) noodles, often in disturbingly orange sauce. Cannot be Some Bizarre Asian Flavor.

Eat and Live Better [100] (Free Kraft Brand): 'Helping People Around the World Eat and Live Better' is the vision statement of Kraft Foods. Thanks to this perk, the food you prepare is now twice as nutritious, twice as healthy, half as harmful, and just tastes a little bit better.

The Stuff Kids Crave [200] (Discount Kraft Brand): You know how to ensure that your target audience loves your products. Anything that you make that is obviously meant for a specific group, such as children, will provide members of that group with twice the benefit, twice the enjoyment, and half the downsides as it normally would.

Orange Stuff [400] (Discount Kraft Brand): Everyone knows that the orange powder, however delicious it might be, is not real cheese (no matter what Kraft says). But that is okay. You can always find or make substitutes for any material needed to kraft something. It may not be quite as good as the real thing, but it will be sufficient to get the job done. Also, children will tend to prefer your product to the more accurate and unsubstituted stuff. Oddly, most of the stuff you use this to produce will be a slightly... unusual color.





Nissin Demae Brand [Free]: The company founded by the inventor of instant ramen, Nissin Demae is the big dog in the ready-to-make food market and is considered to be one of the largest humanitarian industries in the world, as instant ramen has saved millions from starvation. By concentrating the power of food, we aim to be a food-creation group that transforms personal concepts of delicious flavor into something of higher value. The Power of Food!

Concentrating The Power of Food! [100] (Free Nissin Demae Brand): Any dish you make has twice the nutritive value it should have, at the very least. The better tasting it is, the more nutritious it is. This applies to all food-like substances as well.

Crazy Makes the Future [200] (Discount Nissin Demae Brand): This grants you the ability to predict near future events, but with three caveats. First, you must sleep for this to work, as these predictions are conveyed to you in dreams, dreams that you will remember vividly. Second, you cannot control what events you will predict, though they will be important events. Third, in order for you to act on these predictions, you must first share the dream with other people (in words or by direct memory sharing). These dreams will always, in some way, expose some element of your fetishes, life style, gender preferences, etc, in addition to predicting the events. (eg: There is a bomb, but it shows up in a dream in the girl's locker room. You (a bear of a man) are part of the dream, wearing a girly cheerleader outfit, with lots of talk about boys and makeup/ect.)

Summoning the Power of Egg [400] (Discount Nissin Demae Brand): Whenever you add an egg to a meal, your raw physical might and confidence are boosted by a factor of 500 for the next thirty seconds. Any fire based or flight based powers are augmented as well, for the same period, but only by a factor of 50. This may or may not give you the head of a chicken for those 30 seconds.



Maruchan Brand [Free]: The big name in ramen in the United States, Maruchan is generally considered to be the worst of the name brands for instant noodles... but considering that the generics are much much worse... eh, maybe 24 cents a pack isn't too much to pay for 200 odd calories.

Food that Brings Smiles to Faces [100] (Free Maruchan Brand): Your food will always be at the ideal temperature when you go to eat it, or when you serve it to others. Furthermore, it will never have too much salt.

Happiness is Homemade [200] (Discount Maruchan Brand): Whenever you touch an ingredient, you will get a mental list of every recipe you know that includes that ingredient. If you have all the ingredients in the same room as you, you can snap your fingers and, hey presto, the dish will be prepared instantly as good as you could make it and served on whatever dishes or pots you happen to have in said room. This includes boxed food, instant noodles, etc. All ingredients will be consumed in the process. Any amount may be produced in a single snap if you have the ingredients on hand.

As American As It Gets [400] (Discount Maruchan Brand): Despite appearances to the contrary, Maruchan is owned by Americans, made in America, eaten in America, and loved in America. And just as America has created its own version of instant ramen, you can now create your own version of other things. You can figure out how to duplicate any item that you have time to study and experiment with, at least if you have the ability to understand how it functions. Duplicates of fiat-backed items do not carry fiat. Duplicates of functionally unique items are likely to be less unique / powerful / tasty, but that's down to your personal skill in krafting the duplicate.



Pot Noodle Brand [Free]: The UK's leading maker of instant noodles, Pot Noodle has a reputation for strange products... at least from a european perspective... such as sticky rib, kebab, and mousaka flavored noodles... and even weirder commercials (with terrible terrible singing).

You Can Make It! [100] (Free Pot Noodle Brand): You instinctively know how to cook any edible food item. It may not be the ideal or best way to cook it, but you know how to cook it without making it taste bad or ruining the dish. If it's a packaged food item, you know how to cook it without having to read the instructions and gain a kind of sixth sense for what commonly available ingredients you can add to make it taste much better.

The Noodle Van is Coming [200] (Discount Pot Noodle Brand): You can now power any piece of equipment, no matter how outlandish its power requirements would be, with instant noodles. Sometimes, for no apparent reason, this will cause the piece of equipment to transform into a very similar piece of equipment that was designed by Japanese street racers (neon, dayglow paint job, spoilers)... but the transformation will end when the fuel runs out.

An Opera in the Kitchen [400] (Discount Pot Noodle Brand): Warning, that link leads to something horrific. And like the 'people' in that commercial, you will find that you will no longer have to choose between pursuing your passions and dealing with normal life. Any time you spend on simple, necessary, and uneventful tasks (such as making and eating meals, sleeping, travelling, or similar) will count as if you spent that time studying or training to improve a skill or ability in some way. In addition, your training will be twice as effective as it otherwise would be.



Mr. Noodles Brand [Free]: Ah... Mr. Noodles... The offbrand namebrand. There isn't a single market on the planet where Mr. Noodles is the dominant name. But it's popular in Canada and Bangladesh. It doesn't help their brand recognition that there's a Sesame Street character with the same name... nor the fact that there's a general feeling that the best way to eat a Mr. Noodles product is to be so drunk that you can no longer taste the shame. Seriously, this stuff makes most generic brands look good.

God-Tier Drunk Food Level [100] (Free Mr. Noodles Brand): Not only does food taste much better when you're drunk, but you find that your culinary creativity and innovative spirit is increased tenfold when you're hammered. Miraculously, the recipes you create while drunk will taste just as good, if not better, when you're sober again. Also, you find that you have written down surprisingly lucid and precise instructions to replicate said recipes.

Celebrating a Family Occasion [200] (Discount Mr. Noodles Brand): They say you can't choose your family... well, now you can. From now on, you can choose to be a member of any family once per jump (or every generation / 25 years for standard human families). Reality will reorganize itself to the minimum necessary amount to make this true, so you'll probably be adopted most of the time. Use of this does not allow you to usurp birthright or claim bloodrights by itself, but if you have something else that does, feel free to combine it. Soup is all about mixture.

Let's Mix Something Up [400] (Discount Mr. Noodles Brand): What good are powers and perks if you can't mix and match at will? That's silly. The best thing about soup is that you can toss pretty much anything into and, hey presto, it's still soup... unless you add too much starch, at which point you might have batter... or dough... anyway. You may now combine up to eight perks, abilities, or powers into a single mega-perk... and you may create as many mega-perks as you have abilities to combine. The exact details of how they combine is up to you.



Maggi Brand [100]: India's leading manufacturer of ready to make foods, they serve one of the most diverse cultures in the world with the largest variety of instant soups, dehydrated curries, and packaged meals.

2-Minute Noodle [100] (Free Maggi Brand): Maggi's food is fast to cook and good to eat. Says so right on the package. Things that take other people three minutes take you only two. A time-saving of 1/3rd! That's not bad, right? Doesn't work on tasks longer than 15 minutes before the time reduction.

Dabbawala's Delight [200] (Discount Maggi Brand): The Dabbawalas of India are among the best organized workforce in the world. Hundreds of thousands of hot lunches are prepared at individual homes or businesses, then transported, often by trains, to the offices where the breadwinner is slaving away. Hundreds of thousands of lunches, in largely identical containers, delivered every work day, under incredibly tight time pressures, with less than one mistake a week. Your ability to organize is now boosted to the point where you could easily organize a system just as overwhelmingly complex that works just as well... or, you know, organize all your stuff so you always know where everything is, not because you've got a perfect memory, but because your system is that good. This also makes it incredibly easy for you to remember your own systems... and to remember to actually use them.

Broken & Beautiful [400] (Discount Maggi Brand): You don't need help, and you don't need sympathy. You don't need anyone to lower the bar for you. You know you're superwoman*, you know you're strong. You know you've got this 'cause you've had it all along. You're phenomenal, and you're enough. You don't need anyone to tell you who to be. Fundamentally, you know that you're broken, but you're okay with that. You take pride in your flaws, knowing that you wouldn't be you without them. Attempts to make you feel small or damaged or insufficient to the day always fail, because you know you've got this. *Note, you are not actually kryptonian... or at least this perk doesn't make you one.



Indomie Brand [100]: Indonesia's number one brand... well, that's not really true. Sure, Indofoods is correct in that Indomie is the best selling product line made in Indonesia, but Maggi is the best selling brand in most parts of Asia. Still, Indomie makes some damned good noodles... and hasn't been hit nearly as hard by controversy in recent years. Of course, some of their marketing is a bit... suspect.

Never Do Dishes Again [100] (Free Indomie Brand): Exactly what it says on the tin. All dishes and other food related items (utensils, cookware, storage, ovens, fridges, etc.) that you use or that belong to you or occupy any home or business you own will never need to be manually cleaned ever again. They will magically become clean immediately once all edible food is removed from them. No one will find this strange.

Co-opting Kids as Brand Ambassadors [200] (Discount Indomie Brand): It's a simple fact of life that children are easier to convince of things than adults. It's another simple fact of life that people typically like their children and want them to be happy. By playing on these facts, you've managed to arrive at the conclusion that if you can convince someone's children of something, it makes the parent far more likely to be convinced as well. While this isn't an ironclad thing, you can now use the child as a vulnerability vector for the parent, slipping things like social manipulation or outright mind control (OBEY) through the parent's normal defenses. Of course, you've first got to bypass the child's defenses. The more children of a specific individual you get to side with you, the better this works on the parent.

The Leading Consumer Goods Company [400] (Discount Indomie Brand): Whenever you want to buy something that is for sale to the general public, you get it for free. This includes services and lodgings... but the item, services, or what have you must actually be for sale to anyone who asks (private buyer clubs that anyone could, in theory, join, are also fine). If a large subset of the population cannot buy the item (alcohol is often age restricted), you still can as long as you're part of the group that could legally do so. The seller will not be financially harmed unless you want them to be.



Sapporo Ichiban Brand [100]: Sapporo Ichiban Brand, made by Sanyo Foods of Japan, strives to enrich the lives of people by developing superior food to meet their customer's needs. Aren't you lucky!

One is Not Prime [100] (Free Sapporo Ichiban Brand): You gain an inherent awareness of whether any universe you are in is deterministic or not, and if deterministic, the exact degree to which it is deterministic. This does nothing to actually allow you to counter determinism.

Ichiban is Number One [200] (Free Sapporo Ichiban Brand): You no longer need the approval of any safety board or government oversight agency when marketing or selling new products. You can ignore any legal restrictions on means of marketing. Yes, you can use cartoons to market drugs to children, or advertize booze in the newspaper, or outright lie about the contents of your food. This does not exempt you from being sued for any harm you might cause.

A Dance Craze [400] (Discounted Sapporo Ichiban Brand): Whenever you feel the need for a distraction, either for yourself or others, a flash mob will suddenly appear and loud music begin to play from nowhere. The mob will then proceed to dance to said music, totally disrupting anything else going on. However, there is one limitation to this effect. The dancing and or music will either be distracting to you as well... or it will be embarrassing to you. There is no way to predict which will happen. How embarrassing or distracting it is to you depends on your personality. If you're dancing with the mob, neither effect procs.



Nongshim Brand [100]: Although based in South Korea, Nongshim was originally known as the Lotte Food Industrial Company, and started out counterfeiting other companies' products, predominantly Shrimp Crackers (Korea's first commercially available snackfood) and Ramyun (the Korean version of Ramen). They are currently the number one instant noodle producer in the country thanks to a beef fat scandal that trashed Samyang's reputation and toppled the ramen giant.

Using Your Noodle [100] (Free Nongshim Brand): You develop a love of critical thinking exercises, meaning that whenever faced with a tricky problem, rather than getting upset or stressed, you find yourself enjoying the challenge.

A Farmer's Heart [200] (Discount Nongshim Brand): The philosophy of Nongshim foods is 'All is Possible Throughout A Farmer's Heart: If things are done with patience and go with the flow, the desired result will be there as the world becomes heartless, a farmer's heart should be restored.' The seeds of a nice thought are probably in there somewhere. But what it means is that stress never gets to you. You possess the uncanny ability to judge the importance of any situation or task objectively, and to prioritize accordingly. Anything that is less than actually a life threatening emergency will be unable to even ruffle your feathers, so to speak, and even said LTE will only bring you focus rather than a sense of panic.

What You Can Do [400] (Discount Nongshim Brand): Anything you have already done once, you can do correctly every time, to the limits of your skill. If you possess the ability to make a dish, you'll make it correctly every time you try, no matter what other factors might be in play, unless it is physically impossible for you to do so (lacking ingredients, being in a full body cast, etc.). A change in task conditions can still cause failure, if the change is extreme enough.



Samyang Brand [100]: The originator of Korean Ramen (Ramyun), for nearly three decades they were untouchable until it came out that they were using industrial beef fat to fry their noodles. The scandal toppled them to fourth place in an industry they built. Now, the company is looking to remake their image and dominate the foreign imports market where their reputation hasn't been soiled.

Mission Re-Creation [100] (Free Samyang Brand): It's a simple fact of marketing that bad press hurts sales. Well... not for you... or at least not for long. Anyone you haven't personally hurt, or anyone who hasn't been personally harmed by one of your products, will be much much quicker to forgive any indiscretions you might have made as long as you've publicly apologized and made even the slightest attempt to actually change your ways or rectify whatever harm was done. This does have limits, but as long as you don't abuse it too often, it should work on most people.

Delicious Together [200] (Discount Samyang Brand): To show our appreciation and love for our customers, we extend this special offer; anytime you buy any food item, you will gain a double portion for free. In fact, any time you buy anything that isn't a one of a kind, hard to replicate item, you will gain a second one at no extra cost. This does not apply to items purchased from a Jump document.

Excellence in Taste [400] (Discount Samyang Brand): Samyang's marketing division claims that their company is all about making food that will appeal to the discerning eater. From a certain standpoint, that's actually accurate. If you've only ever eaten Cup-Noodle, Maruchan, and Nissin, you might find it hard to believe that pre-packaged noodles can actually taste like food... but its true... to a point. It's never going to compare with a gourmet meal, but there are levels of taste even among fast foods... though figuring out which is which might take someone an incredible amount of time, effort, and research. That someone is not you. You now have the ability to figure out the best product at any given level without sampling them all. As long as you've got a basic idea of a category you can define and have sampled at least one example of, you'll be able to locate the best of that category instinctively. Best Ramen Shoppe in the city? No problem. Best Dressmaker in the world? Not an issue. Not only is such a task simplicity for you, but you now have incredibly good and discerning taste, plus the vocabulary and aura of authority that makes other people tend to trust your judgement... until you're proven demonstrably wrong or they find out you're lying because you've been bribed. Remember, a good tastemaker is an impartial one. Buy Samyang.



Knorr Brand [100]: Unilever-owned since 2000, this is the oldest company on the list, having been founded in Heilbronn, Germany in 1838. Knorr is Europe's largest soup and bouillon brand. Operating as Royco in Indonesia and the Netherlands, Continental in Australia, and Ajinomoto in Japan, it also owns Lipton. It's also known to produce Kosher soups for sale in the US and Israel.

Like Grandma Used to Make [100] (Free Knorr Brand): Any food you make possesses an incredible ability to bring out an almost overwhelming sense of nostalgia in the eaters, reminding them (possibly painfully) of a better, simpler, more comfortable time. It will not bring up negative emotions. Also, you are now the world's best hugger.

Old Fashioned but New [200] (Discount Knorr Brand): Whenever something you rely on breaks, becomes unusable, or must be discarded for any reason, you will almost immediately find something that will work just as well... but is old fashioned or retro. For example, your modern toaster breaks. You will almost immediately find an older 1950s era toaster in the closet. Your tuxedo gets splashed with mud... you find a suitcase containing an edwardian era tux. You have to throw away your pulse rifle to avoid a checkpoint. Just past the checkpoint, you discover a Mosin Nagant in perfect working order with a full ammo box under a park bench.

For the Love of Flavor [400] (Discount Knorr Brand): Whenever you make anything personally, you'll receive a second at absolutely no additional cost. This also applies to any construction project that you're personally overseeing as well. The second may be superficially different from the first in any way that does not have any functional value (yes, color is deemed superficial even for cultures where it's not... say Korea, Orks, or Illegal Aliens).



Osem Brand [100]: Owned entirely by Nestle of Switzerland, Osem is the largest Kosher Food manufacturer in the world, though not the largest in Israel, where it is based. Founded in 1942, it is older than its host nation and prides itself on high quality foods that are ethically sourced, ecologically sound, and healthy. Cannot be Shrimp or Pork Flavored. They aren't Kosher.

Suitable for All Diets [100] (Free Osem Brand): Any food dish you personally prepare will automatically satisfy any dietary restrictions (either due to health, ethical, or religious reasons) that the eater might have. Someone with Celiac could eat bread you baked, a vampire could eat your quiche. It need not have been prepared for that individual specifically.

A Little More Than Ordinary [200] (Discounted Osem Brand): Whenever you make something, the ingredients you use will be elevated to the next rarity level... if such a thing exists. In the real world, this means that you can take otherwise basic ingredients and maximize their potency / flavor / effectiveness.

Ethically Sourced [400] (Discounted Osem Brand): Everything you make is guaranteed to be ethically sourced. What does this mean? Any morally or ethically questionable act you might have taken to procure the components or ingredients will pass none of that onus onto the finished product. This doesn't mean that you personally will be deemed blameless, but there will be no taint on the product. This applies in both metaphysical and public opinion senses.



Campbell Brand [100]: At a hundred and fifty years old, the Campbell's Soup Company of Camden, New Jersey is probably the most iconic soup brand in the world. The company is divided into three divisions: Simple Meals (Soups), Baked Snacks (Pepperidge Farms), and Health Beverages (V-8 Juice).

Now With Lower Sodium [100] (Free Campbell Brand): You possess the ability to pull ingredients out of a liquid mixture... say, salt out of broth. This takes a small amount of the base liquid and sucks some or all of the ingredient out of the rest, allowing you to separate most of the batch from whatever you don't want in there. If you want to recover the salt (or whatever), you'll need to pull out the rest of the base... but you can always just add more water (or another base liquid) to the removed sample and repeat the process if you like.

Soup is Mmmm Good [200] (Discounted Campbell Brand): Nothing brings people together like a good meal. You can, by presenting everyone present with food, call a temporary end to whatever is going on. This will calm everyone (including you) down for the length of the meal. Everyone. Crying babies, warring parties, ninjas and pirates, etc. No one, not even you, will think of doing anything confrontational, hostile, or disruptive during the meal... but this effect only ends when the food does. Anyone entering the area of effect will be caught by it, as long as there is food... even if they are beings utterly incapable of understanding the concept of soup, let alone eating it. Warning, food comas might be a thing. Any toxic or harmful element to the food introduced deliberately will negate this effect. Anything toxic or harmful in the food that was introduced accidentally or unknowingly does not, but that harmful property is negated. Harmful is always determined by the individual eater, so if you try to slip a potion into something that would make everyone be reasonable and anyone present doesn't want to be reasonable, they'd view that as harmful. Them having something against bacon for being fatty would not count. If it's a normal everyday kind of harm (like booze or trans-fats) that gets a pass... unless you're serving booze because you want to enrage a Minbari or poison someone who can't handle booze.

An Indispensable Resource [400] (Discounted Campbell Brand): Whenever you have a question on any topic that has an already known & published answer, a copy of whatever book or magazine or website print-out that answer may be found in will appear nearby for you to reference. Once you're done reading it, the resource will vanish again. They cannot be sold. The exact location of the answer to your question will not be highlighted.

FLAVORS

You must pick one and only one Flavor.

Vegetable Flavor [Free]: Yay. The bounty of the earth. Growing things. Perfect for herbivores and those on a diet. Guaranteed to probably contain no animal products.

Vegetarian [100] (Free for Vegetable Flavored): Like all the rest of your leaf eating kind, you are weak, both of body and will. You will never be able to perform better than ten percent as well as you normally could have. Also, you are a natural target for bullies, and they will sense your presence. However, this only lasts while you eat an entirely vegetarian diet. Oh, right. Jokes aside, this is a perk... umm... because it's ten times harder for you to do stuff, all your training is actually twenty times as effective as it otherwise would be while you're eating that vegetarian diet. This effect takes a full day to activate, and eating even a single bite of meat ends it immediately. Ovo-Lacto and 'Ethically Sourced Meat' (freely given by the lifeform in question) don't count.

Eat Me [200] (Discounted for Vegetable Flavored): Something about you makes wild animals (especially carnivores and omnivores), as well as aggressive domesticated animals and cannibals, want to eat you. This will make them incredibly aggressive towards you. It cannot be targeted. Any animal or person within the area that would eat you if it could will be affected unless there is a very good reason for them not to be (such as you being on fire or covered in murderous spikes). This cannot fully compromise their sense of self-preservation, but will mute it slightly. Those with strong will or those who have recently eaten can resist this. You can toggle this effect on instantly or off with about a five minutes' strong concentration. You can exempt people from this by tapping them on the forehead if the effect is off. If it's on, they will revert to normal over about five minutes. This works on gluttony and hunger, and works best on beings not of your own species, unless your species are frequent cannibals.

Vegitative [400] (Discounted for Vegetable Flavored): Your mind is, according to all forms of scans, completely blank. No thoughts of any kind seem to occur inside your skull. Nothing can detect your thoughts. Also, you can instantly fall asleep and do not dream while asleep unless you want to. If you choose not to, you can perceive the world around you as if you were awake, and choose to wake up any time. Overuse of this to avoid conversations might cause people to think you're an idiot.

 

Beef Flavor [100] (Free for Knorr & Osem Brands): Flesh of the Bovine, Beef is the most common red meat in the world and the most popular flesh flavor around.

Beefeater [100] (Free for Beef Flavored): You find it incredibly easy to figure out what will make people angry, gaining a kind of sixth sense for what people's buttons are. This power is fuelled by eating beef, but when you use it, you also gain this burning desire to poke those buttons, just to see what happens. The endorphin rush from provoking people to anger is an all natural high for you that never gets old. This power doesn't make people more or less prone to losing their tempers than normal, but does give you a sense of what might trigger them if anything can.

Fight Me [200] (Discounted for Beef Flavored): Something about you causes other people to want to fight you, to debate or attack or bully you depending on their personality and your current appearance. This will lower or outright remove their inhibitions against open violence. This can be toggled off at will, but takes five full minutes concentration to do so. Toggling it on is instant, but the effects aren't. The longer others spend in your presence the more they will be provoked to anger. You can exempt people from this effect by tapping them on the middle of the forehead when the effect is off. Doing so while the effect is on means they will calm down over the next five minutes. Defaults to members of your own or very similar species, but could be expanded with practice to other species if you're familiar with them. This targets anger and hatred. The stronger someone's willpower, the better able they are to resist this effect.

Asymmetric Lunch Fare [400] (Discount Beef Flavored): Whenever a group of people which includes you are selecting from a pool of available resources, you will always be allowed to have first pick... even if you're doing divide and choose and you're the divider. Abuse of this will always generate hard feelings.

Pork Flavor [100] (Free for Pot Noodle & Mr. Noodles Brands): The Other White Meat. Very few cultures consider pig to be the best meat, but it's eaten around the world as pigs are easy to raise (except in deserts) and run wild in many parts of the world. It's mild flavor makes it easy to cook any number of ways... and of course, most bacon is pork.

Uncultured Swine [100] (Free for Pork Flavored): You have become gifted with a true genius for crude, sexist, racist, or salacious comments. When you make the effort, you are practically guaranteed to offend someone... but by the same metric, you can also ingratiate yourself with others of low humor or base moral fiber. Conversely, when you don't want others to take your words personally, you can say 'Nothing Personal' and they'll have to agree, if only for the sake of politeness. They might still harbor resentment. When people become offended by something you said, it gives you a warm sensation in the pit of your stomach.

Make Me [200] (Discounted for Pork Flavored): Something about you causes other people to try to take advantage of you. This will lower their inhibitions and cause them to go with their instincts, often disregarding normal societal standards. This can be toggled off at will, but takes five full minutes concentration to do so. Toggling it on is instant, but the effects aren't. The longer others spend in your presence the more they will be tempted to treat you like a toy or a chump, depending on their personality and your current appearance. You can exempt people from this effect by tapping them on the middle of the forehead when the effect is off. Doing so while the effect is on means they will calm down over the next five minutes. Defaults to members of your own or very similar species, but could be expanded with practice to other species if you're familiar with them. This targets greed and or lust.

Great Big Pig [400] (Discounted for Pork Flavored): You now possess the ability to store theoretically limitless amounts of calories for later usage. No matter how much you eat, you'll gain maximal nutritive value from what food you do eat, and all excess calories will be stored as fat which you can burn off at any time in the place of physical endurance. Note, this does not make fat attractive.




Chicken Flavor [100] (Free for Campbell & Osem Brands): The White Meat. The most popular animal protein in the world, chicken is so neutral in flavor that it can be cooked almost any way you can dream of.

Run Away! [100] (Free for Chicken Flavored): Your speed is drastically (up to three times, bound by the limits of cartoon physics) increased whenever you are trying to get away from a situation that you don't want to be involved in. This applies to your personal speed, as well as the velocity of any vehicle you are piloting personally or a mount that you are riding.

Fear Me [200] (Discounted for Chicken Flavored): Something about you causes other people to want to run away from you, or to cower in your presence, or to protect others from you depending on their personality and your current appearance. This will lower or outright remove their inhibitions against open violence. This can be toggled off at will, but takes five full minutes concentration to do so. Toggling it on is instant, but the effects aren't. The longer others spend in your presence the more they will be provoked to anger. You can exempt people from this effect by tapping them on the middle of the forehead when the effect is off. Doing so while the effect is on means they will calm down over the next five minutes. Defaults to members of your own or very similar species, but could be expanded with practice to other species if you're familiar with them. This targets fear and the protective instinct. The stronger someone's willpower, the better able they are to resist this effect.

Good For What Ails You [400] (Discounted for Chicken Flavored): Your bodily fluids are now exceptionally good at passing on any resistances or immunities you have to other people... but they must ingest said fluids. Those resistances and immunities you pass on will fade over time, but the stronger the resistance, the longer it will last, up to three months... six months for any form of illness. This does nothing to make sharing bodily fluids less potentially gross.





Cheese Flavor [100] (Free for Kraft Brand): The ultimate in dairy products, aged milk-curds are proven to be as addictive to humans as cocaine. Especially parmesan, which, no matter what my husband says, does so go on anything.

A Good Stink [100] (Free for Cheese Flavored or Kraft Brand): You can make yourself smell like any kind of cheese (or food) you want. Those who like the smell will find it hard to resist your appeal, while those who don't will find it overwhelmingly distasteful. This effect ends whenever you want it to. Incidentally, this perk also cures any lactose intolerance you may have.

Land Snark! [200] (Discounted for Cheese Flavored or Kraft Brand, Free for Cheese Kraft): People around you will become snarky, sarcastic, and rude to you. They may even distrust you or assume you're lying to them automatically. Exactly how this manifests is dependant upon the individual's personality and how you look at the moment. This tends to make people ignore such things as propriety or politeness or restraint. This can be toggled off at will, but takes five full minutes concentration to do so. Toggling it on is instant, but the effects aren't. The longer others spend in your presence the more they will be provoked to anger. You can exempt people from this effect by tapping them on the middle of the forehead when the effect is off. Doing so while the effect is on means they will calm down over the next five minutes. Defaults to members of your own or very similar species, but could be expanded with practice to other species if you're familiar with them. This targets sense of humor, scorn, and distrust of others. The stronger someone's willpower, the better able they are to resist this effect.

BEHOLD THE POWER! [400] (Discounted for Cheese Flavored): You are now a cheese-o-mancer, wielding the power of CHEESE! Not only can you summon unlimited amounts of any variety of cheese simply by posing triumphantly and declaring 'The Cheese Stands Alone!', but you can also twist official rulings, decrees, and contracts (but not perk/item descriptions or drawback wordings or any other jump document related adjudication) so as to best take advantage of the vagaries of language. This will cause extreme annoyance to anyone whose job it is to enforce said rules, but they will be bound by the interpretation of the wording you've found.

Shrimp [100] (Free Sapporo Ichiban & Nongshim Brands): Ah yes, sea-bugs. Tasty tasty sea-bugs. Nomnomnom.

Popcorn Shrimp [100] (Free for Shrimp Flavored): You can shrink to one quarter your normal size, or anywhere in between. To do this, you must hold your breath. There is a loud popping sound whenever you grow back to your normal size.

Jumbo Shrimp [200] (Discounted for Shrimp Flavored): Something about you makes those around you bigger, both physically and emotionally. They inherently feel superior to you, looking down on you and dismissing you as feeble, weak, unworthy, and unimportant... or disgusting, perverse, and abhorrent, depending on their personality and your appearance. This plays on the emotions of superiority and disdain. Those with strong will or highly compassionate personalities will resist this out of hand. You can toggle this effect on instantly or off with about five minutes' strong concentration. You can exempt people from this by tapping them on the forehead if the effect is off. If it's on, they will revert to normal over about five minutes.

Shrinking Problems [400] (Discounted for Shrimp Flavored): They say that your problems get smaller the more you study them. Well, in your case, that's actually somewhat true. Whenever you stare at something for too long, either deliberately or just idly, it will tend to get smaller as time goes by. Stare at something intently for more than ten seconds, and it will begin to shrink. Stare at something idly for more than a minute and it will do likewise. How far it shrinks depends on how intently you stare and for how long, but in general, anything larger than, say, a car will shrink at the rate of about a meter (overall, remember this is 3D we're talking about) per second. Anything smaller than a car will shrink about 1/10th of a meter per second until it's mansized, and anything smaller than an average human will shrink at the rate of 1cm per second until it's less than half a meter on all three dimensions. After that, the shrinking will get noticeably less, but still be there, so if you want to shrink a fly into a gnat, feel free. Anything shrunk will always maintain its shape and function as far as possible, but its mass will decrease as its volume does. The effects of this wear off a hundred times slower than they came on, and won't start wearing off for an entire day.



Some Bizarre Asian Flavor [100] (Free Indomie & Samyang Brands): Which Asian Flavor? Who's to say? There are hundreds, perhaps thousands. Spicy Peanut? Lime Chutney? Soy Sauce? Mackerel & Prune? Rice Vinegar? Mayo Onion?

Pros and Koans [100] (Free Some Bizarre Asian Flavor Flavored): You possess the ability to say things that sound utterly profound, but may or may not be completely meaningless. Those of moderate intelligence (i.e. not the extremely intelligent or massively stupid) will tend to be confused by these statements and will spend excess amounts of time pondering them. The highly intelligent will realise they mean nothing, while the stupid will just grunt and may try to punch you for being too smart.

Impede Me [200] (Discounted for Some Bizarre Asian Flavor Flavored): Something about you seems to encourage other people to get in your way, hamper your progress, or otherwise actively try to thwart or defy you, though exactly how this manifests depends on their personality and your appearance at the time. Those affected will tend to be extremely defiant about this behaviour, feeling as if they are standing up to a bully or other authority figure. This effect cannot be on a specific person. Those with strong will or those with extremely submissive personalities can resist this. You can toggle this effect on instantly or off with about a five minutes' strong concentration. You can exempt people from this by tapping them on the forehead if the effect is off. If it's on, they will revert to normal over about five minutes. This works on defiance and stubbornness and rebellion against authority. It also works best on your own species, but you can expand it with practice.

The Thunder of Your Passing [400] (Discounted for Some Bizarre Asian Flavor Flavored): Asia is big. Asia is Bold. Asia does not mess around with history. Now, all those things are true of you. Wherever you go, people sit up and take notice. They are drawn to you, feeling an urge to come and see what you have to say, what you will do, and what impact you will have. No more will you be a bit-player in the game of life. Now, when you move, nations will move with you, the tides of history being shaped by your every word or gesture. Your words will find their way into the hearts and minds of those ready to follow, and those ready to fight will be galvanized by them. Some may oppose you, some worship you, some merely stand by and watch, but whoever they are, all will hear the thunder of your passing, and none shall remain unshaken by it. *Note, this can only be toggled off by use of a stealth or anti-butterfly perk. As a bonus, you can now fart loud enough to rattle nearby windows.



Chili Flavor [100] (Free Maggi Brand): This is pretty much just spicy water with noodles... but damn if it isn't tasty! Hope you can handle the heat. May or may not be meat-free.

Spice it Up [100] (Free for Chili Flavored): When you're around, things are naturally more exciting, dramatic, and all around spicy. Tempers run higher, people feel passion or anger easier, and all the food has a more vibrant flavor. Of course, while this may make people quicker to fall in love, it will also make them quicker to fight, more prone to envy, and more likely to lie just for the thrill of it. But things shouldn't ever be dull around you. The longer you spend with people, the more lasting this effect is even when you're not around.

Mastery of Hot and Cold [200] (Discounted for Chili Flavored): Something about you makes those around you as uncomfortable as you're currently feeling and somehow makes them feel you're to blame or can do something about it. If you find the environment too hot, everyone around you will feel likewise. If you find it too cold, everyone will agree with you. If you feel that some event is boring, well, that too will get through. Conversely, if you're having a great time, people around you are likely to also feel as if the event is going well. Those with strong will or highly antisocial personalities can resist this but it will take effort. You can toggle this effect on or off with about a minute's strong concentration. You can exempt people from this by tapping them on the forehead if the effect is off. If it's on, they will revert to normal over about five minutes.

Let's Not Add That [400] (Discounted for Chili Flavored): To quote a great and wise sage 'Gotta keep 'em separated!' Sometimes you get abilities, perks, skills, powers, or pools that would naturally fuse with others (for example, levels in two different classes in the same system.) Normally, such mixing, as in soup, is all for the good... but sometimes, you just want to keep your fish cakes from mixing with your egg. Why? Maybe you've got a thing against food touching. Maybe you don't like how they taste when combined. Maybe you just want to level up Cleric and Barbarian separately. Either way, that's what this perk does. Sometimes, you just don't want things spiced up.

FLAVOR MODIFIERS

Low Sodium [100] (Free Sapporo Ichiban Brand): Low sodium means low flavor, low flavor means low impact. That's life for you now. You never get itches, aches, or pains from doing normal everyday things any more, and extraordinary things (full body rash, ran a supermarathon the previous day, got into a fist fight with the cast of Expendables) will have those discomforts minimized.





Sweet and Pungent [200] (Discount Cup-Noodle & Samyang Brand): You now fart only when you want to, and when you do, your farts are either somewhat spicy and sweet, or extremely pungent... eye-wateringly so. Congratulations, you're now a chemical warfare plant... well, a low key sort of one.

Roasted [200] (Discount Knorr Brand): This deepens the emotional impact of the various 200 CP Flavor Perks, transforming vague sensations into extremely rich and nuanced sensations that are harder to resist. Works very well with 'With an Egg' or 'With Intense Flavor'.





Picante [200] (Discount Maruchan Brand): This allows you to tag someone else with the effect of a 200 CP Flavor Perk that you possess. You must kiss them to pass the effect on and it lasts up to 24 hours. They have no control over it. If you have 'Roasted' or 'Intense Flavor' you can instill it at that level as well.

With an Egg [300] (Discount Nissin Demae Brand): This allows you to cause the general area around you to be filled with a vibe that causes others to either become subject to an unfocused untargeted version of any of the 200 CP Flavor Perks that you posses or to become extremely resistant to that Flavor's effect. Exactly how it affects them depends on their inherent personality. You cannot designate a target for these emotions. By concentrating on a single individual or group of individuals that you can see, you can push them in one of those two directions, even if they would normally be in the other camp.



Intense Flavor [400] (Discount Osem Brand): This boosts the effectiveness and range of all those 200 CP Flavor Perks that you possess. The normal area of effect is roughly fifteen meters around you, and is blocked by walls and such, falling off rapidly outside that distance. With Intense Flavor, the effect is no longer blocked by walls and spreads outward from you in waves the longer you stay in an area. It can easily cover entire city blocks, but the area affected is reset to the default whenever you toggle the effect off and back on. Willpower becomes much less effective to fight the effectiveness of Intense Flavors.

ITEMS

Items can be purchased more than once.
Additional purchases of freebies are merely discounted.

Dehydrated Veggies [50] (Free Vegetable Flavor or Pot Noodle Brand): While not as good as fresh, dehydrated veggies have a much longer shelf-life and can add an impressive amount of flavor and nutrition to what would otherwise be a carb heavy meal. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you'll receive a dehydrator that allows you to transform any amount of vegetables into dehydrated veggies, maximizing their flavor and shelf-life without damaging their nutritive value at all. Not only can they be restored to fully edible just by placing them in a small amount of water for a couple seconds, the dehydrator has a super-dehydrator mode that turns any food stuff into jerky that will last for decades but is packed full of flavor and nutrition and doesn't even need water (though you might get thirsty).

Fresh Veggies [100] (Discounted Campbells Brand or Vegetable Flavor): You have a nice baggy of fresh vegetables to add to your instant noodles, really adding to the nutrition and taste... shame you can't eat them without noodles to go with them. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you get an unending cornucopia of fresh vegetables native to the jump you're in. They can be any naturally occurring vegetables, but what comes out of the cornucopia is completely random. They are guaranteed to be fresh and of high quality.

Big Bowl [50] (Free Sapporo Ichiban Brand): It's always nice to have a bowl big enough to put all the extra goodies one wants to add into your meal. This bowl is always big enough for all the ingredients you add, and seems to keep everything at the perfect temperature and condition. Yes, your soba noodles won't get too soft, and if you have cereal, it won't get soggy. After the gauntlet, comes in a set of six, and they are self-cleaning and BPA Free.

Soy Sauce [50] (Free Some Bizarre Asian Flavor): A variety of pre-packaged soy sauce varieties, all neatly labeled in a dozen different languages and dumped unceremoniously into a drawer. May or may not also contain packages of mustard, hot mustard, hoisin sauce, plum sauce, and ketchup. Any drawer you open in future is likely to contain and similar random assortment, and the contents of said (self-destructing when empty) packets are always of the highest quality, not the normal garbage that fills them.

An Egg [200] (Discount Nissin Demae Brand or Chicken Flavor, Double Discount (not free) Nissin Chicken): You gain a single animal egg of any kind to add to your noodles. It's nice and fresh and adds just the right amount of mmmm. It can be hard-boiled or raw. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain a dozen eggs in their shells a day. They can be any kind of eggs that are naturally occurring anywhere in your current or previous settings and can be viable if you like.

Fishcake [100]: Kamaboko (surimi) is one of the most basic of Japanese fish cakes and is used as a topping for soups such as ramen, udon, and soba. Chikuwa (grilled kamaboko) fish cakes are also quite popular in stews and Hanpen are fish and mountain yam, and are boiled. You have a small packet of nice semi-fresh fish cake to add to your meal. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you get a Kamaboko press that will create tasty and safe to eat surimi of any kind of seafood you've come in contact with.

Oil Packet [100]: Fat makes things taste good. Why? Because our bodies think of fat as energy, so we translate that into yum. This is a specially seasoned pouch of oil designed to bring out the maximal omph of your cheap lunch, be it chili oil, fish oil, sesame oil, or olive oil. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you gain an unbreakable cruet of oil that is enough to make even the blandest foods taste savory and delicious. Of course, it also triples the fat content, but you can't have everything.

Flavoring Packet [50] (Free for Ramen): You gain a flavoring packet of your choice of flavor to add to your noodles. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain a small case of ten flavor packets of your choice each day. These can be added to any food to replace its flavor with that of the flavor packet or to combine the flavors together, as you choose when you use the flavoring.

Flavor Booster Packet [100]: You gain a small packet of powder that will double the flavor intensity of your lunch. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you will gain a small seasoning shaker that, when added to food, will adjust the intensity of the various flavors of that food to its optimal balance and intensity.

Yakisoba Sauce [100] (Free for Yakisoba): Yakisoba sauce is a tangy sweet & spicy sauce that packs a ton of umami into every bite. Not only is it used on the fried noodles of Yakisoba, but it can be used with takoyaki (fried octopus dumplings), okonomiyaki (japanese grilled cabbage pancakes), plus steaks, pork, chicken, or oysters. Yakisoba sauce is teriyaki's mature older sister. You get a packet of it to spice up your lunch. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you get a Yakisoba station that will make fresh yakisoba, takoyaki, okonomiyaki, or meat skewers for you on demand. Mmm... yummy.

Book of Puzzles & Crosswords [50] (Free Campbell's Brand): As odd as it sounds, some people relax during their lunch-break. Some of them even do puzzles like crosswords, word searches, or sudoku. This is a magazine full of a variety of various mental puzzles. Doing them will make you feel challenged but also relax you. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you will receive a new magazine every week, each with new puzzles for you to solve. No matter what your intelligence level, these puzzles will always provide a decent level of challenge for you. Each magazine contains between two and three hundred puzzles. No answer keys are provided, but once you solve a puzzle correctly the puzzle will verify that fact. If you feel like giving up on a puzzle, the magazines will provide hints to help you.

After Dinner Candy [50]: You get a nice palette cleansing after dining candy. It need not be mint flavored. A nice sweet end to a meal, you can eat this as you return to your desk. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you gain a small bag of these things than never seems to run out. They have absolutely zero nutritive value, but they are a nice little treat and tend to make people feel a little better. Also, they are very good at getting other tastes out of your mouth and leave no aftertaste of their own.

Edamame [50]: Mmm salted and steamed soy beans. Nice and tasty and a good source of fiber, protein, fatty-acids, and potassium. Unfortunately, fresh edamame begins to lose its flavor within ten hours of being harvested, so most often it's blanched then frozen to maintain as much of the flavor as possible for as long as possible. You get a bowl of nice fresh edamame with brine soaked salt and garlic (optional) to snack on while you wait for your noodles to cook. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain a small crock that always contains edamame in whatever style you like best. If it runs out, simply place the lid back on and wait three minutes, when you open it again, it will be full again. Contains enough to share with up to three people.

Styrofoam Cup [100] (Free for Nissin & Mr. Noodle): Styrofoam... bad for the environment, great for not burning your hands. You get a cup / bowl large enough to prep your lunch in. Do not Microwave in cup. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you get an unlimited amount of styrofoam in any form it is commonly available in. Sheets, blocks, peanuts, cups, plates, packing material, beads, etc.

Plastic Cup [150] (Free for Udon & Yakisoba): Plastic, mostly microwave safe, mostly recyclable, mostly non-toxic... still pretty not good for the environment. You get a cup / bowl large enough to prep your lunch in. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you get a device that can recycle any form of hydrocarbon plastic into any other form of hydrocarbon plastic... and the technical specifications to make more of them. They can be built using 1960s era technology or higher.

Waxed Paper Cup [200] (Free for Curry & Pot Noodle): Now we're playing the environmentally sound game. Although not wonderfully green, by disposable packaging standards, this is pretty much as good as it gets. This cup / bowl is more disposable than either plastic or styrofoam, more microwavable than plastic (once), and almost as good at thermal insulation as styrofoam (for a single meal at least). Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain the seeds of a special high fiber plant that is better than wood fiber or even hemp fiber for making paper or cardboard out of. They grow easily and rapidly, and require far less processing to turn into any variety of paper or cardboard, and their leaves may be processed to form an all natural waxy substance that is both hypoallergenic and great at making something waterproof. It is even fully edible. They are guaranteed not to be an invasive species, but if let run wild will integrate into any environment to produce regional variations for interesting paper or wax variations.

Electric Kettle [200]: A one liter electric kettle, perfect for bringing the water for your noodles to a boil in 30 seconds off of a standard electrical outlet. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, this kettle will always contain boiling (or near boiling) water. The dial on the side will allow you to set the temperature of the water it dispenses from between 71 and 115 Centigrade (160 and 240 Fahrenheit). It can dispense up to five liters a minute and doesn't actually need to plug into anything. Can also dispense hot milk in a similar range of temperatures, with or without froth, and where from skim to heavy cream. The milk can come from any creature you have sampled the milk from.

Microwave [200]: Pretty much the ultimate in convenience heat sources, the microwave is probably the most important food-related invention since the refrigerator was invented. You have one in your break room. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain a small cube (3cm on a side) that can transform into a microwave of any reasonable size, can defrost anything in 30 seconds, can cook anything to optimal temperature in 2 minutes, and doesn't need to be plugged in. It will also destroy any media placed inside for more than 5 seconds in a way that is completely irreversible. Because microwaves are also used to melt things, it has a special kiln mode which can bake ceramics or melt any substance that has a melting point of less than 1800 degrees centigrade to any degree desired. The ultimate in controllable heat sources, guaranteed not to interfere with radio, bluetooth, cellular, or pacemakers.

Cheese Powder [100] (Discount for Kraft): Cheese makes everything better. Everything. Well, okay, mostly food, but cheese is very good at making food better. This is powdered dehydrated cheese powder. When you mix it into your lunch, it will taste all cheesy. Yummm. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you will get a spice shaker full of orangish powder that, when sprinkled on anything, allows you (or anyone else) to eat it as if it were food (in both the chewable and digestible senses). Substances that would be actively harmful if you consume them (arsenic, lava, pure evil) will burn off the cheese powder, preventing you from harming yourself by consuming the substance. The shaker contains enough powder to season a hundred kilograms of stuff, and restocks every day. Everything seasoned with this powder tastes vaguely of cheddar. Warning, contains dairy.

Real Cheese [400] (Discounted w/ Behold the Power): Sliced or grated, whole or cubed, cheese is the thing that pleases. You have a couple of slices or a small packet of crumbles / shreds of cheese to add to your meal. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain a large industrial dairy that can churn out all manner of dairy products for you. It can be a warehouse attachment or can be set up as an independent business that runs itself, produces zero waste, and is guaranteed cruelty and hormone free because it doesn't actually need to be supplied with milk of any kind. Not only can it acquire any kind of milk you have ever sampled, but no one will ever notice that your business isn't perfectly normal. The staff are extremely meticulous and the products it produces will never contain contaminants or dangerous cultures, and the plant itself will always pass any health and safety inspection with top marks.

Genuine Meat [200]: You have a small amount of real, perfectly cooked meat to add to your meal, your choice of the specific kind and how it is cooked. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain an unlimited supply of any type of meat you have ever eaten, raw or cooked as you choose.

Ramen Cart / Udon Cart / Yakisoba Cart / Curry Cart / Mac & Cheese Cart... is that even a thing? Shut up. [300] (Discount Sapporo Ichiban Brand): If you buy this, you don't actually have to make your own lunch, as a cart that makes one of those yummy foods has set up shop outside your office building. You merely have to go down and get in line. Hopefully the line isn't too long, but your lunch is already paid for, once you get to the front of the line. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you get your very own food cart. It's not a food truck, but it does unfold large enough to seat six people and it's always stocked ready for a lunch rush... or maybe for catching people heading home from the bars? Does not come with staff, but is all but irresistible to the stressed, drunk, or tired. While the cart only makes one of these at a time, you only have to purchase it once. It can change type once a day.



Scoop of Rice or Rice Cakes [100]: Rice is Nice. Rice adds nicely digestible carbohydrates to any meal, and can be served steamed, fried, boiled, or processed into literally thousands of different products. You gain a guaranteed fresh, bacillus cereus free, scoop of white or brown rice to go with your lunch, or a packet of chewy asian style rice cakes (tteok) to add to your soup. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet you gain an unlimited amount of any rice based product you can think of that is sold in stores; bagged rice, rice cakes (asian or western), rice wine, rice wine vinegar, mirin, sake, packaged fried rice, rice paper, rice noodles, brewer's rice, rice ash, rice hulls, rice oil, rice bran, rice milk, rice syrup, rice crackers, puffed rice, rice soaps, rice scrubs, rice straw, rice fuel, and rice-based medicines.

Miso Soup Mix [100]: A paste made from fermenting soybeans with salt and koji fungus, Miso paste is an incredible burst of umami in every mouthful. That paste can be dried into a powder which can be mixed with hot water to produce instant Miso Soup... or you can pour it into your other noodles to add the richness of Miso broth to your dish. You gain one packet, either as an additive or appetizer, since miso soup is ready instantly, and you don't have to wait for the noodles to soften, since there aren't any. Once you have passed through this lunchtime gauntlet, you gain a warehouse addition that does nothing but produce huge barrels of Soy Sauce and Miso Paste in all different varieties. It is run by a very nice couple from Hokkaido who are in their eighties, and are always very eager to hear your stories and have tea with you, but they won't bother you unless you come to visit. It would be rude.

Private Washroom [200]: Sometimes lunch-time is also time to, ahem, take care of a little personal business. But that wastes time as you eliminate waste... or touch up your make-up and you might have to share space with your horrid coworkers... or the room could be a mess. No longer. Buying this gives you a door only you can open, one that's always nearby and fits the decor. It leads to a private washroom where, for the next twenty minutes, time doesn't pass in the exterior world. Usable once every two hours. This washroom is always well appointed, clean, odor free, has a sink, toilet, bidet, shower, fresh towels, soaps in your favorite scents, brushes, combs, your preferred brands of toiletries, and a bowl of mints. For purposes of this gauntlet only, you may not cook or eat your lunch in here, but if you want to be weird & gross, you could do so afterward. There is always clean water, heat, and light in here, and no one can bother you there. It always exits right back to where you entered from.

A Hug [Free for Everyone]: Once the Gauntlet is done, you get a hug from Jump-Chan. It's not a sexual hug. It is, however, the best hug ever. It's warm, intimate, compassionate, comforting, and lets you know that everything's going to be okay somehow. This hug is also not addictive, and will remain with you, letting you know someone in the universe cares. Because everyone needs a hug sometimes. You get a token you can trade for another hug whenever you really really need one, and the token respawns once a month if used or given away to another person so they can use it. In fact, you get another one free once a month if you give the first to someone who can really use it. It's nice to share.

COMPANIONS

The Whole Crowd [200]: Any number of companions can import into this gauntlet, but each of them must make their own lunch. They gain their choice of Variety, Brand, and Flavors, and gain all associated perks free, but do not gain CP, cannot buy items, and cannot take drawbacks. The 200 CP Flavor Perks possessed by your companions do not work against you unless you're humoring your companions. A companion cannot be imported using this option more than once.



DRAWBACKS

You cannot take any drawback for points more than once.

Lunchbreak [+0]: You may take this Gauntlet at any time, including in the middle of another jump or Gauntlet. It still lasts only fifteen minutes. The other jump or gauntlet is put on hold for the duration of your Lunch Break. This does not allow you to bypass drawbacks native to that jump, such as power lockouts, by using perks or items from here. However, if you're someplace where there couldn't possibly be a break room (say floating in the void of deep space) this gauntlet will transport you someplace safish in the other jump / gauntlet's universe for your break, then return you to someplace stable-ish where you won't immediately die or chain-fail once you're done. Least we could do.

MEGA-GAUNTLET MODE! [+50]: You can combine this with another jump or gauntlet, keeping the longer duration and all CP separate. All Drawbacks from both sources are in full force for the entire duration. Use the other jump's locations and victory conditions, with these further restrictions... all lunches for the duration must be eaten in 15 minutes or less, from start of prep to finish of eating. If you are not done eating when time runs out, you must stop eating until dinner time (at least 6 hours later). All abilities that allow you to go without eating for a prolonged period of time are disabled.

Crowded Tables [+100]: There is no place to sit... no, not even the floor. You will have to eat your lunch standing up. No you can't go eat at your desk, you don't have a desk, this isn't a real company.

ESPN Coverage [+100]: A very loud and extremely intrusive newscaster and cameraman are filming you and broadcasting you making lunch as if it were the sporting event of the century. Smile, you're being watched by 1.3 billion people worldwide.

Idiot Coworkers [+100]: Your coworkers are idiots. They are constantly getting in your way, talking to you about projects that you're not involved in, asking what you're doing, and if you ignore them they'll only get angry.

Three Minutes is an Eternity [+100-600]: You still have only fifteen minutes, but it feels longer. How much longer? Multiply the length of subjective time by 10 for every +100 CP you gain. You do actually not move any faster, it just seems like everything is moving slower around you.

Uncooked [+200]: All you've got is raw ingredients. What? No, you can't eat raw ingredients! You're not a caveman! You'll have to actually make your lunch before you can eat it... using only the supplies found in a normal business breakroom. You still have only 15 minutes.

Incomprehensible Directions [+200]: You have forgotten everything you've ever known about cooking and the instructions for this thing are written in Minoan Linear C. Linear C? Yes. C. A language so obscure it didn't exist until we made it up. In fact, the instructions for all cooking related apparatus appear to be written in this language now.

No Hot Water [+200]: The microwave is busted. Someone stole the kettle. You will have to find something else to heat your water to boiling. You must boil water or you fail the gauntlet.

Workplace Harassment [+200]: Your boss (or someone you cannot get rid of) will spend the entire 15 minutes yelling at you or flirting creepily with you.

Earthquake!!! [+200/+400]: There is a minor / major earthquake happening. The building is shaking a little / a lot, but not yet falling apart. You must still make your lunch and eat it.

Fire [+200/+400]: The building is on fire. Smoke is slowly filling the air. The fire department is coming. Cook and eat your lunch in the chaos. At the upper tier, the fire is much more intense and the smoke is choking.

Dietary Restrictions [+200/+400]: Thanks to a rather questionable chicken-tikka-masala taco you had a week ago, you can no longer consume carbohydrates. This means that you have to buy the speciality no-carb keto noodles from the health shop. They taste as appetizing as that sounds. For an additional 200, you have a craving for that carbo-goodness, but your sensitivity has grown to a full blown and fatal allergy. Try not to breathe in the wheat dust.

Lemon Curry? [+300]: Someone has replaced your lunch with something identical except in flavor. What's the new flavor, you ask? Something terrible and weird. Like... Orange Mint Pistachio with Vanilla Anchovy Peas or something.

5 Minutes [+300]: You must cook and eat your lunch in only five minutes, which means it will be boiling hot and you will scald yourself.

Take Your Kids to Work Day [+300]: There are now a dozen small children in the breakroom (ages 4-9). They will interfere with whatever you're doing and ask annoying questions or make fart jokes.

Postal Office [+400]: Your break room has been replaced with a busy post office. You cannot actually take a break. You must continue sorting mail and dealing with customers even as you try to cook and eat your lunch. There is a 5% chance that a disgruntled ex-employee will show up and try to shoot everyone.

Operation Lunchtime [+600]: As you are finishing your lunch, the FBI (or equivalent) will show up to arrest you for sedition. As they are doing so, the local police will show up to inform you that the various states of the nation have (largely) decided to throw off their corrupt leadership and proclaim you their new Overlord. Using only the resources you've gained in this jump, you must consolidate power, then successfully use that power to assert your hegemony over the entire world. This drawback extends the duration of the gauntlet indefinitely, meaning that it will only end when 95% of the world recognizes you as their overlord (willingly or otherwise). You will forget having taken this drawback and find the entire process to be a giant pain in the arse, but you will find it extremely hard to disappoint all your loyal followers by giving up. Throughout all this, you will subsist on a diet of instant noodles. When you combine this with other drawbacks from this document, those drawbacks will plague your lunchtimes, but only up to three of them total in a single lunchtime.

REWARD

An Infinite Lifetime's Supply of Ramen! And other instant noodle dishes, of course.