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Some summaries that we have got so far:

1. Some of them did not find it a pain to find hometown ingredients, but the trouble is to find ingredients with hometown quality and taste. If it is not the expected quality they want, they would prefer not to buy but look for something else.
2. There are ingredients that taste differently from their hometown, including eggplants, cucumbers, pears, ramen, etc.
3. Convenience, especially transportation and distance, is one critical factor that drives them to go grocery shopping. For example, comparing small stores but closer to big stores but further, they would prefer to go to the smaller ones.
4. For students, since they don't have much time cooking, they would prefer things that can be cooked faster and easily.

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**Student J**

**Personal info:**

Lives alone

Lives near 99 ranch

Has a car

Has a boyfriend in Houston, who is good at cooking. He thinks eating is an important thing and willing to spend time doing it. Think eating on time, eating good is important.

Jiaxin always prioritize work/study than eating, (forget to eat) but she feels this is not good and hurt her stomach. She is trying to balance personal health and work/study.

**Time management/ life management**

Liking eating Chinese food, but doesn't have many requirements for eating.

Thinking what to eat, where to eat is hard. Often pick a nearby restaurant.

**Cooking:**

Don't like cooking, sometimes want to cook if has a good mood.

Cooking 1-3 times each week, sometimes 0 if busy.

Liking ordering food (how? Phone call or app?) and drive to take out. Because Uber eats may charge? Restaurants don't support delivery.

If cook alone, normally cook one meal and adding many ingredients (mushroom, meat, ).

Have to cook if there is not so many Chinese restaurant options

Often eat noodles, convenient, quick

Don't know what/ where to eat?

What people like eating is affected deeply by family.

Open Yelp, Google, search a nearby restaurant by rating, favorite meals

It takes time to prepare. Eating hot pot is convenient, especially with friends.

**Buying ingredients:**

Drive to 99 Ranch Because of the need to buying many kinds of food, inconvenient to take it to home if don't drive

Won't buy too many fresh ingredients, because they are easy to turn bad.

Like buying many quick-frozen food (dumpling, meat). Can eat for a long time

Vegetable and fruit at 99 ranch are not as fresh as HEB (Went to HEB more than 99 ranch)

Like Buying greens, Chinese watermelon, at 99 ranch, want to eat them in one week, but normally can't.

Knowing semi-cooking food is not healthy and not tasty for Chinese people.

Ingredients buying each week are similar.

**Social:**

Last weekend: "China Family" eating with friends, 10 people. Every person orders one meal.

Can eat different meals.

Liking eating with friends outside, because can try many new/different meals. Won't eat alone outside (chatting, can't eat all the meals).

Like Thailand food, Vietnamese food

Would like to ask friends to home and eat together, but it takes time to prepare. So always eat hotpot.

Main pain points is not finding special ingredients, because current ingredients are enough for daily cooking. The problem is inconvenient (one hour to take bus), have no time. They can cook using any

**Student D****Personal Info:**

From South Korea

Been in the United States for almost one year

Likes Japanese food

Lives near HEB

Does not have a car

**Cooking**

She usually cooks things like eggs and omelets.

For breakfast, it is quite simple including oatmeals.

For lunch, she has a sandwich and salad and something that is easy to bring to campus.

She cooked sandwich and avocado lettuce rice with tuna sometimes.

For a dinner, she has pasta salmon with bread, because it is easy to cook.

Sometimes she has fish eggs with rice.

Would like to cook things that do not take too much time.

**Shopping**

She usually goes to grocery shopping at H-E-B because it is close to her home.

Occasionally she went to Trader Joe's and that she didn't go to HMart a lot because it is too far. But that she would go to Hanyang market more. (Korean market)

### **Observations**

When looking at her refrigerator, she has a couple of stuff taken from Korea when she went back in this winter. It includes some salty and sweet side dishes and some flakes for rice and some Korean sauces which is spicy.

She agreed that she didn't cook that much and that she didn't do a lot of Korean food.

But she mentions things taste different from what she had at home, including Korean pear and Ramen.

If she made some problems like this, she would avoid eating that food.

Her favorite food is Tteok-bokki, but she feels like the rice cake here is not of good quality and that the texture is different.

And that there are several vegetables, such as cucumbers and pumpkins, that taste different. There are some brands of that she cannot find here. She said she really misses some Korean style cafeteria.

When I asked about which restaurant she likes in Austin she said there is one that is pretty authentic.

And that the price is reasonable but to those food makes her miss the hometown and the friends and family.

### **Problem-solving:**

If she has some ingredients that she needs, she will go to HMart with others but there are several ingredients she has to take from home and from Japan.

She had the experience that her parents mailed things to her but it is really expensive.

She also said she preferred not to buy online because she has to check the quality.

If she heard from somebody there are good quality ingredients available, she may be going. But for those the qualities were not good, she would just give up and look for some alternatives.

### **Social**

She mentioned sometimes she got together with other Korean friends for potluck and that they can share Korean food together. It is also good that they can speak Korean together. But due to time constraints, she will eat at home when she was busy. Also, she mentioned she would be happier and the more likely to cook Korean food if there are good quality ingredients.

### **Student L**

#### **Personal Info:**

From South Korean

Live with his wife and 2 babies (1-year-old and 3-year-old)

Has been in the u.s. for almost three years.

#### **Cooking:**

When his wife is at home, he doesn't usually cook.

But he can cook soup sometime.

Their family did not have a specific preference on the meal.

Most of the decision is made by his wife.

Daily meals include pasta, steamed rice, Korean soup, and bulgogi.

Last week he has steamed rice with bbq for his lunch.

They also had Tteokbokki (rice cake) for another meal.

### **Shopping:**

In terms of shopping, they go to Costco a lot for food including tofu, egg, bread, and seaweed. There is another Korean market called Hanyang market. This one is closer than HMart so they go there more often. He would receive some updates from the market on Kakao talk (a social network app). They usually buy stuff like kimchi, soup sauce, ramen, seaweed, women ramen, noodles, soy sauce, rice vinegar, and Korean dumplings.

When asked a process, he mentioned they would try different types of kimchi. A friend recommended a specific brand and they find it pretty good. He actually prefers a smaller market because it is easier to find things they need.

### **Observations:**

He did not notice, however, anything that he has trouble finding. But he did miss the spicy fried chicken in Korean which is not offered in Austin and they cannot cook it at home.  
Don't prefer the restaurant because it is expensive and not good enough.

### **Social:**

Recommended by a friend. He once ordered a cake from a family and they pick the cake over the phone since they don't like American style cake which is too sweet for him.

Recommended by the community. There is a family that sells Korean dishes called banchan and they delivered. It is expensive however around 30 dollars. But it is easier as they don't need to spend time cooking. They found another store which is much cheaper and buy from them like once a week.

### **Student X**

#### **Personal Info:**

From China

Live with her husband

Ph.D. student

Has been in the United States for almost three years.

#### **Cooking**

They cook pretty often, unless they are invited by other friends. Almost all of the meals are Chinese food, including dumplings, noodles, etc.

Their fridge has vegetables from ranch 99, as their favorite vegetables are not sold in local groceries. They have many kinds of sauces, like spicy sauces but they rarely use them when cooking,

#### Shopping

Meats are mostly from 99 ranch too, because their preferred meat includes pork rib and pork belly, which is provided there and meet their expectations. Milk and eggs come from local market, because they want to have organic stuff.

99 ranch they buy most of the stuff

Mt market they buy sliced beef for hotpot because of better price, but they don't like the environment there.

Costco

They want to eat duck soup and different kinds of Chinese soup but failed to find that. They found watching videos online is a good way to achieve their dreams.

They feel there are authentic Chinese restaurants and go there 2-4 times a month.

They have been eating Chinese meals for years and are used to it.