THE THREE BASIC DIETS: AN INTRODUCTION

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Losing weight isn't mysterious. You must eat fewer calories than you burn each day. Find your favorite combination of modest eating and regular, vigorous exercise then stick with it. (Remember: muscles burn up many more calories than fat tissue, so the cumulative effects of exercise are much more important than the calories burned during a single session. When your muscles are stronger, you will burn fat 24 hours a day.)

People who stick with low-carb diets have the highest long-term success rates - but the choice is yours. Take your time, experiment with all three if you like, and then choose the one that you can live with forever. Not for a few weeks, not for a few months, FOREVER. Why? Because if you ever go back to the way you are eating today, you will regain whatever you have lost. Maybe more.

Don't worry – you don't need to know anything complicated about proteins, fats, or carbohydrates; you just need to know which foods are rich in them and which aren't. A few examples: bread – white or whole wheat - gets calories mainly from carbohydrates. Tuna canned in water is almost pure protein. On the other hand, steak gets its calories mainly from... fat. A juicy sirloin is two-thirds fat and one-third protein. Olive oil is pure fat. An apple is almost pure carbohydrate. If you want to look up the contents of individual foods, here is a helpful link:

http://www.brianmac.co.uk/food.htm

The site is primitive but easy to use. If you want more data, go to the site hosted by the US Department of Agriculture: Here you can download and save a PDF file that has all the information you will ever need about the composition of food:

http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/Data/HG72/hg72_2002.pdf

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