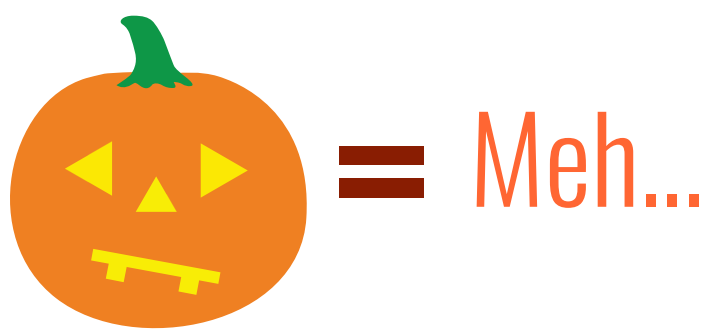


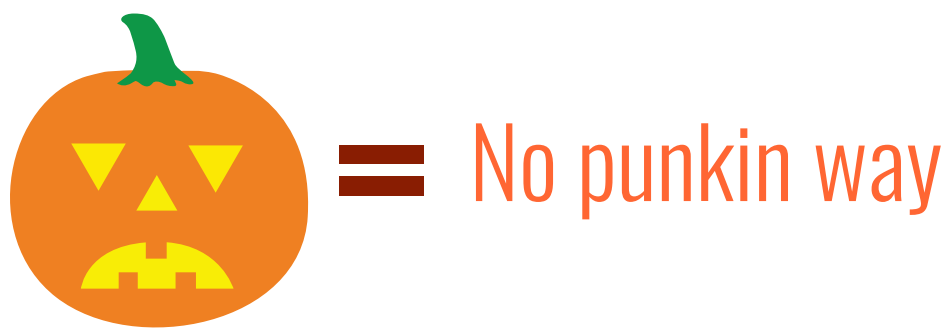
Would You Like Pumpkin With That?



= Yeah!



= Meh...



= No punkin way

The only certainties in life are death, taxes and pumpkin-flavored everything during the fall. First, pumpkin spice lattes infiltrate coffee shops. Even the people who only like black coffee jump on the pumpkin spice latte bandwagon. This is fine. Adding flavor to coffee is not a crazy idea. Desserts that get the pumpkin spice treatment also make sense.

But during the fall, every food product seems to be pumpkin-flavored, and while it's cool that even inanimate objects such as food are getting into the holiday spirit, not every food item should have a pumpkin-flavored version.

That's not to say these products taste bad. It's just an acquired taste for some people. In fact, the features section is split on this opinion. Junior Courtney Kauffman, assistant features editor, normally hates everything that has pumpkin in it. Features Editor senior Katey Stoetzel tends to like pumpkin-infused items. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule, so Courtney and Katey have broken down the yays and the nays of pumpkin-flavored food so you can easily navigate your holiday grocery shopping.

Courtney

Once you finally get past all the icing in these rolls, you get the aftertaste of the pumpkin roll itself, which honestly was not great. It might help if I liked regular spice rolls more, but I still think the icing is too overpowering. I guess it could be worse —if there was less icing you would be forced to really taste the pumpkin in it.

I can say I was surprised — but not pleasantly — at the creme filling. I was blinded by the initial sweetness of the cookie, so when the pumpkin spice hit, it was a shock, and I spent the rest of my time eating it trying to decide whether the sugar was enough to balance the spice. I have nothing against creme, but I have everything against pumpkin spice, and I don't think they managed to complement the flavors this time.

This arguably is the best granola bar I've eaten in a long time. As someone who generally tries to avoid anything pumpkin-flavored, I think this showed me pumpkin spice can be used well. The only downside was nothing about this bar made it especially fall-themed, since granola bars come in a variety of flavors all year long.

Filling Hershey's kisses with pumpkin spice creme probably sounded like a good holiday-centered idea, but I really don't think it panned out. The sweetness was good, but mixing chocolate and pumpkin didn't quite work.

I have no idea who thought these would be a good idea, and I don't know who would want to make a cookie taste like these. Maybe if someone did mix these mini chocolate chips with other ingredients, it would lessen their strength because, frankly, these mini chips pack way too big of a punch.

I didn't like the initial taste of the spice, but I liked the mixture between the spice and blandness of the almond even less. As someone who generally loves nuts, I was looking forward to this snack, but it left a lot to be desired. I was reminded of the pumpkin spice roll because there wasn't a good balance between the almonds and the spice. Overall, they left a lasting aftertaste that took a cup of water to erase.

Katey

Quit being a hater, Courtney. They're basically pumpkin-flavored Twinkies, which is amazing. I will admit the pumpkin flavor isn't that strong, but it's definitely there. This one's weird because it's an actual dessert where the pumpkin flavoring makes sense.

Oreos always have different flavored cremes depending on the season, but when the pumpkin-flavored ones showed up in the pantry at home I was surprised such a thing existed. But when I tried them I was pleasantly surprised at how delicious they were. The ones we ate had the vanilla cookies, so that also helps with the taste since pumpkin and vanilla go together better. I'm not sure having the chocolate cookies with the pumpkin creme would have been great. If you're a fan of Oreos, you'll probably like these.

The granola bar does the best at naturally integrating the pumpkin flavor. I don't have a problem with it, especially since I'm not a huge fan of crunchy granola bars. But out of all the things on this list, I think the bars could be eaten at any time during the year.

These aren't bad, but I'm not jumping for joy about them either. I don't mind the chocolate and pumpkin mix, but when I'm eating them, I'm mostly just wishing for the regular chocolate Hershey's kisses.

I hate these. Why do they exist? They are so salty — I can't stand it. I know you're technically supposed to use the chips in other recipes, but I eat plain chocolate chips all the time and they taste fine. So why are the pumpkin-flavored ones so terrible? This is a major failure and definitely an instance where the pumpkin flavoring has gone too far.

I love these. I'm glad they exist. Often times, I forget I even like almonds. Then I'm walking down the aisle of the grocery store and find myself walking by the pumpkin spice almonds, so I get them because hey, it's another pumpkin-flavored thing. And they're great. I can't stop eating them. They aren't too spicy, and the pumpkin flavor isn't too strong. It's a nice balance.

