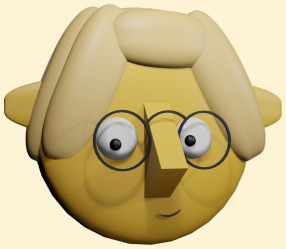
Great coffee at home.

A better cup than the drive-through, in five minutes

Four things. Five minutes. Pajamas allowed.



THE FOUR THINGS THAT MATTER (THE REST IS BONUS)

Beans

whole, with a roast date

2–4 weeks

Roasted within the last two to four weeks. Check the **roast date**, not the fancy name.

Grind

right before brewing

15 min

Flavor starts fading within about 15 minutes of grinding. **Grind it fresh.**

Water

hot, but not boiling

195–205 °F

Boil, then wait **30 seconds.** Full boil (212°F) scorches the coffee.

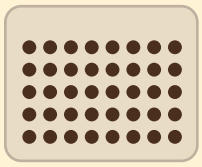
Ratio

coffee to water

2 tbsp

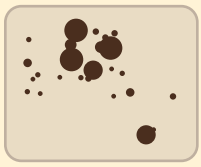
Per 6 ounces of water. Too strong? Add hot water. You can weaken strong coffee.

THE SINGLE BEST UPGRADE: A BURR GRINDER



Burr grinder: crushes beans between two surfaces to one even size. Even grind, even extraction, a better-tasting cup.

A decent one costs about $40–80.



Blade grinder: chops beans into a mix of powder and chunks, so some coffee over-extracts (bitter) while some under-extracts (sour).

PICK YOUR METHOD

Drip

Easiest. A thermal carafe keeps coffee hot without burning it.

Grind: medium

Best for: households, coffee ready when you wake up.

Pour over

Pour hot water slowly over grounds. Clean, bright, flavorful. Slightly fussy, in a good way.

About 4 min • medium grind

Best for: one or two cups, people who like a ritual.

French press

Steep, then press down a plunger. Rich and full-bodied, since no paper filter.

4 min steep • coarse grind

Best for: bold, rich coffee.

AeroPress

Brews under gentle pressure. Fast, forgiving, easy to clean. The cult following is earned.

About 2 min

Best for: anyone. Nearly impossible to make a bad cup.

Your five-minute morning

1. **Boil** the water. Let it sit 30 seconds.
2. **Measure:** 2 tablespoons of beans per 6 ounces of water.
3. **Grind fresh.** Medium for drip or pour over, coarser for French press.
4. **Brew** with your method of choice.
5. **Pour it. Drink it.** Feel smug.

Ignore the name

Midnight Thunder Reserve sounds great. Check the **roast date** instead: it matters more.

When it's ready

Feel smug.
You did not drive anywhere.

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