

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches: An Exercise in Voice

Read the directions for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Afterwards, revise the directions according to the given prompts.

Get out a butter knife, a jar of peanut butter, a jar of jelly, and two slices of bread. Open the jar of peanut butter. Use the knife to put peanut butter on one side of a slice of bread. Open the jar of jelly. Clean the knife and use it to put jelly on one side of the other slice of bread. Put both slices of bread together with the jelly and the peanut butter on the inside. Eat. Clean up afterwards.

1. Blah. The writer did not include many creative verbs in those directions: *get*, *open*, *use*, *put*, *clean*, and *eat*. Transform the above directions to incorporate more precise verbs. If necessary, feel free to add or combine sentences.

2. Okay, that's better. Now try and add some vivid adjectives and adverbs to the directions. These will help paint a better picture in the reader's mind and set the tone.

3. For the final step, include figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification). Example: The peanut butter should stick to the bread like tar on a road in the scorching, hot summer.
