Exercise 1: Jelly Sandwich (Algorithms)

Remember that computers are fast but dumb. They will do exactly what they’re told, even if it’s the wrong thing. They can only follow simple, step-by-step instructions. A list of such instructions is called an algorithm.

For this exercise, we’ll explore algorithms for making a jelly sandwich. Assume you are writing a list of instructions (in English) to make a jelly sandwich for your new friend who is not so smart.

Part (a). Work with a partner to come up with an algorithm for making a jelly sandwich. Write it down and give it to your Team Leader.

Part (b). Try writing a new algorithm based on what just happened.

For Discussion:
1. What does this exercise reveal about the English language?
2. What is needed to be able to write a precise algorithm?
3. Are there any advantages to acting out a proposed algorithm?