

## Prompt Jail: Do More with Less Answer Key

### What Are Constraints?

#### Your Definition (Sample Response):

A constraint is a rule, limit, or boundary that shapes how something is created or expressed. Instead of restricting creativity, it can actually sharpen focus and improve quality by forcing specific choices.

#### Two Examples (Sample Responses):

1. Writing a poem that must be exactly 10 words long - it makes every word count.
2. Designing a poster that uses only black and white - it pushes you to think about contrast and layout instead of color.

### Guided Example

**Base Prompt:** Describe Paris.

**Refinement 1:** Describe Paris in 3 sentences focusing only on the food.

**Refinement 2:** Describe Paris in 3 sentences focusing only on the food, using a humorous tone.

**Refinement 3:** Describe Paris in 3 sentences focusing only on the food, using a humorous tone as if you were a first-time visitor who accidentally ordered the wrong dish.

### How the Constraints Changed the Writing (Sample Reflection):

Each constraint narrowed the scope and created a clearer identity for the writing. The first constraint turned a broad topic into something concrete - food. The second introduced a playful voice, influencing word choice and rhythm. The third added perspective, creating a situation (a tourist mistake) that gives the writing personality and a storytelling element. Together, these changes transformed a plain description into a specific, engaging narrative prompt.